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WIDE  
KC785  
KC

漫画  
ヤス

原作  
久米田康治

りく  
りく  
りく  
りく

漫画 ヤス  
原作 久米田康治



りく  
りく



ヤス YASU  
この漫画は、作者の「りく」が、  
「りく」の「りく」を「りく」で描くという  
「りく」の「りく」を描くという  
「りく」の「りく」を描くという  
「りく」の「りく」を描くという

久米田康治 KUMETA KOJI  
この漫画は、作者の「りく」が、  
「りく」の「りく」を「りく」で描くという  
「りく」の「りく」を描くという  
「りく」の「りく」を描くという  
「りく」の「りく」を描くという  
「りく」の「りく」を描くという



それ、読めるぞ、死ぬぞ

ああ、読えちまった...

WIDE  
KC785  
WASTERY  
KC

無羅亭  
魔梨威

木胡桃

暗落亭  
苦来

空猿美遊亭  
丸京

びよしらくお

漫画ヤス  
原作 久米田康治

防波亭  
手

WIDE KC

講談社

ムスリの人

亭座宇  
ウザムス



阿賀佐 真刻 一休 銅橋羅 四季 鄒乱明 版帝 急夢 竹刀 雲裝羽留 相日郎 崩壊 資産税 夜祭 亞蠟 熊門 怒乳手 坊衣 達人 管菜



ふしらく

飯橋羅 独育 管菜 手寅 此処亞 多乱亭野 木胡桃 恋夜 ウザンタ 丸京 苦来 我負 魔梨威

原作 久米田康浩  
 入場券  
 一般 ¥3  
 シニア ¥2  
 学生 ¥2.5  
 小学生 ¥2.2

漫画 ヤス



# 目次

四十一日目	風邪の神送信	かぜのかみそうしん	〇〇四
四十二日目	次元無しの	じげんむ	〇十八
四十三日目	突ギレ	とろキレ	〇三二
四十四日目	品定めし中	しなだめしんじゅう	〇四六
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四十六日目	文書入れ	もんじょいれ	〇七四
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最終日	終末の極意	しゅうまつのきうい	一三〇







じょしらく

J O S H I R A K U



**DAY 41: A SPIRITUALLY TRANSMITTED COLD**



**AND IS  
UNDER  
REINOTE-  
CONTROL  
!**

**MARI-SAN  
HAS BEEN  
INFECTED  
WITH A VIRUS**



**NOW  
THAT YOU  
MENTION IT  
RECENTLY...**



**BUT THEY'RE  
INFECTING  
PEOPLE,  
TOO!?**



**THERE HAVE  
BEEN CASES OF  
PCS INFECTED  
WITH VIRUSES  
GETTING  
REMOTELY  
CONTROLLED**





**SHE'LL  
END UP  
GETTING  
ARRESTED  
BY  
MISTAKE!!**

**KILL**

**NO,  
DON'T!**

**AHH...!**

**SHE JUST  
WROTE  
SOMETHING  
CRIMINAL!**

MARI-SAN'S  
PERSONAL  
DATA WILL  
START TO  
LEAK OUT!

IF WE  
DON'T DO  
ANYTHING  
ABOUT  
THIS VIRUS  
INFECTION

WELL...  
I DON'T THINK  
SHE'D GET  
ARRESTED AS  
LONG AS IT'S  
NOT ON AN  
OUTSIDE WALL

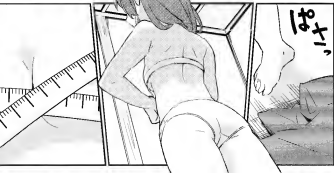
THAT'S  
WHY I  
ERASED IT  
RIGHT  
AFTER  
SHE  
WROTE IT.



す、



WELL, NO..  
SHE'S NOT  
A PC, SO  
THAT  
PROBABLY  
CAN'T  
HAPPEN.



は、





AND IS TRYING  
TO CONFESS TO  
HER USING  
MARTI-SAN!



MOST LIKELY  
THERE'S A BOY  
OUT THERE  
SOMEWHERE  
WHO LIKES  
GAN-CHAN



I GET  
THAT A  
LOT!



PEOPLE  
APPROXIMATELY

DO YOU HAVE  
ANY IDEA IF  
THESE  
ARE ANY  
GENTLEMEN  
THAT USE  
YOUR



WHO THE  
HELL ARE  
YOU?

JUST...

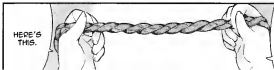


WE'RE WAY  
TOO SELF-  
CONSCIOUS.  
WE'VE GOT  
TO

I WONDER IF  
GAIN'S JUST  
A LITTLE  
TOO SELF-  
CONSCIOUS



もみ



HERE'S THIS.

TO MAKE SURE YOU DON'T HIT HER BY MISTAKE





I WONDER  
COULD  
THIS VIRUS  
ACTUALLY  
BE FROM...



WHEN SHE  
GOES LIKE  
THIS...



ST...



IN OTHER  
WORDS, THE  
VIRUS THAT  
INFECTED  
MARI-SAN  
IS...

THE CHINESE  
ZOMBIE  
CALLED THE  
"JIANG-SHI"?



I'VE BEEN  
THINKING THIS  
FOR A WHILE,  
BUT  
MARI-SAN'S  
MOVEMENTS...



SO...  
YOU GET  
INFECTED IF  
YOU GET  
BITTEN!?





AND...  
SHE'S  
HACKED  
RIGHT  
BABY!



THERE'S A  
RISK THAT  
SAN-CHAN  
COULD GET  
REMOTE-  
CONTROLLED  
BY  
SOMEONE?

SINCE  
SHE'S  
BEEN  
INFECTED  
BY THE  
VIRUS,  
DOESN'T  
THAT MEAN



WHAT  
DOES  
THIS  
MEAN  
?!

THIS TIME,  
IT'S POOR  
SAN-CHAN  
TO MATCH-CHAN.



NO!

SO IT'S  
MUTUAL  
LOVE!



THAT'S  
GOING  
TO USE  
SAN-CHAN  
TO COM-  
PRESS  
DATA!

SURELY  
IT'S A SHY  
BOY THAT  
LOVES  
MATCH-CHAN



IT'S A  
LITTLE  
COMPLICATED

WHAT'S  
WITH THE  
TRAGEDY?

'Would be  
rude to tell  
them to  
stop.



WOW...  
THEY'VE  
STARTED  
POOLING  
AROUND.



IT SEEMS TO  
BE MUTUAL  
LOVE AT  
FIRST SIGHT,  
HOWEVER...



WELL,  
IT'S  
MUTUAL  
LOVE,  
RIGHT?





**DON'T  
GIVE  
UP!**

**THEY  
FINALLY  
GAVE UP  
AND  
STARTED  
WATCHING  
ANIME!**

I DON'T  
KNOW  
WHETHER OR  
NOT YOU  
WOULD CALL  
THIS HAVING  
A LOT OF  
EXPERIENCE...

YOU'VE GOT  
BACKUP! ES-  
PERIENCE TO  
PRACTICALLY  
HAVE A  
PREGO-  
PERFORMANCE. DON'T YOU?

WHO,  
MEE?

**COACH  
THEM!**

**KUKURU-  
CHAN  
GOT  
BITTEN  
TOO!**

**SO AM I  
MORE  
PASSION-  
ATELY!**

**WHO IS IT  
THIS TIME?**

AHH!

**SHE'S BEEN  
REMOTE-  
CONTROLLED  
BY SOMEONE!**

**ガッ**

**I  
GET  
IT!**

**SHE'S  
AIMING AT  
MARU-SAN  
AND  
GAN-CHAN!**

**RRIP**



**THE  
YOUNG  
GENERAL  
IS CON-  
TROLLING  
HER!**

YOUNG GENERAL — JANGKOOK AND "BROCKARD" FROM SHINJI ISHIO



SWEET!

WE'VE  
DIED!

HE HEARD  
ABOUT THE  
ZOMBIES AND  
COULDN'T  
RESIST  
EXTINGUISHING  
THEM!



EVEN THE  
INVINCIBLE  
PLAYER  
CHARACTER  
GOT BITTEN!



NOW THAT'S IT'S  
COME TO THIS,  
WE HAVE NO  
CHOICE BUT TO  
REMOTE-  
CONTROL THE  
YOUNG GENERAL!

THE ZOMBIE  
YOUNG  
GENERAL IS  
ATTACKING  
ME!



WE'VE NOW  
LAPPED IN  
THE ARMS  
OF SEVERAL  
YOUNG LAD

BUT I FEEL  
LIKE I OWE  
IT TO HIM TO  
TAKE HIS  
TAIL AND  
STROLL

IT'S HIM  
THAT WE  
HOOKED HIM

WHAT ARE  
YOU  
DOING?

CMP  
CMP

WE'VE  
HACKED  
THEM!

WE'VE  
DIED

Yasu's  
comment

*Originally, I thought this was the girl that was designed to be the heroine character, but before I knew it, she had become a completely dirty, cross-dressing, Mongolian-Spot-Ass character instead. But I like Mari like that. Mari's signature (?) mysterious ahoge bangs weren't originally specifically added; they seem to have gradually established themselves as symbolic parts as I drew her. An enigma to ponder at another time.*





徳

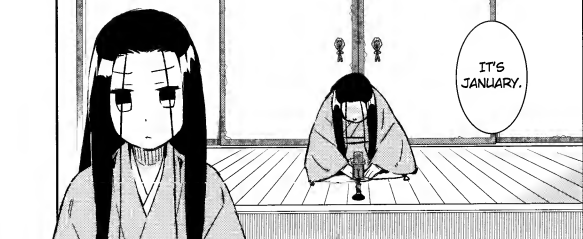
ふん



# じょひらく

J  
O  
S  
H  
I  
R  
A  
K  
U





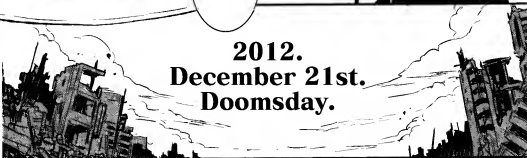
IT'S  
JANUARY.



HAPPY  
NEW YEAR,  
EVERYBODY.

BUT...

**2012.  
December 21st.  
Doomsday.**



IF THERE  
ARE ANY  
SURVIVORS  
OUT THERE  
WHO ARE  
READING  
THIS THEN...

THE FINAL  
DRAFT FOR THIS  
CHAPTER WAS  
HANDLED IN TO THE  
PUBLISHER NEAR  
THE DAY HUMANITY  
WAS SUPPOSED  
TO END.



**YOU HAVE  
ASCENDED!**



**TRANSCENDED  
DIMENSIONS,  
RISEN TO A  
HIGHER PLANE,  
ASCENDED!!  
IN OTHER  
WORDS...**

**"ASCENDED"?  
WHAT THE  
HELL ARE  
YOU TALKING  
ABOUT?**



**LIKE  
YOU!**



**THOSE  
WHO HAVE  
RISEN TO  
ONE RANK  
ABOVE  
NORMAL  
HUMANITY!**



**AND  
YOU!**



**AND  
YOU!**

IF YOU  
MANAGED  
TO SURVIVE,  
THEN YOU  
MUST HAVE  
ASCENDED.

AND  
US...

THAT  
MEANS  
WE'RE  
THE  
CHOSEN  
ONES?

SO...  
SINCE WE  
SURVIVED,

THE  
WORLD  
HAS BEEN  
LEFT TO  
US, THE  
CHOSEN  
ONES,  
SO THAT  
WE MAY  
REBUILD  
IT ANEW.

THE  
IMMORAL  
AND  
IGNORANT  
MASSES  
HAVE  
BEEN  
PURGED.

HEY!!

SADLY,  
THAT DOES  
INDEED  
SEEM TO  
BE THE  
CASE.

THEN...  
MARI-  
SAN  
TOO?

THAT IS  
CORRECT.

WE'RE  
ONE RANK  
ABOVE THE  
REST OF  
HUMANITY!

WE'RE  
THE  
CHOSEN  
ONES!

SO DOES  
THAT MEAN  
THAT WE  
SHIFTED  
FROM  
THE 3RD  
DIMENSION  
INTO THE 4TH  
DIMENSION?  
OR EVEN  
5TH?

ASCENSION...  
YOU'RE SAYING  
THAT WE'VE  
RISEN INTO  
A WHOLE NEW  
DIMENSION,  
RIGHT?

SOUNDS  
LIKE A  
BUNCH OF  
MUMBO-  
JUMBO  
TO ME.

THAT'S  
SOOOO  
COOL!!



WE HAVE  
BROKEN  
THROUGH  
INTO  
THE  
SPIRITUAL  
REALM.

CORRECT.  
IN THIS PLACE,  
THE CONCEPT  
OF TIME HAS  
NO MEANING  
ANYMORE.

IF 3D HAS  
BECOME 4D,  
AND 4D HAS  
BECOME 5D  
AND SO ON  
THEN...

HANG  
ON A  
MINUTE..

HM...

WOULD  
BE A  
PRETTY  
IMPRES-  
SIVE  
ASCEN-  
SION.

NOW  
THAT...

WILL  
SUDDENLY  
START FALL-  
ING IN LOVE  
WITH REAL  
3D PEOPLE  
INSTEAD!?

DOES THAT  
MEAN THAT  
PEOPLE WHO  
WERE ONLY  
INTERESTED  
IN 2D GIRLS,

THAT  
DOESN'T  
COUNT AS  
ASCEN-  
SION!

HAVE  
ALL  
BEEN DE-  
STROYED.

THOSE  
WHO  
COULDN'T  
ASCEND  
FROM  
LOVING  
ONLY 2D,



THIS  
HAS THE  
POTENTIAL  
TO DESTROY  
JAPAN'S  
ANIME AND  
MANGA  
CULTURE!

TH-THIS  
IS BAD!

IS GOING  
TO BE  
REPLACED  
WITH  
AMERICAN  
3D  
ANIMATION?

DOES  
THIS  
MEAN  
THAT  
ALL  
ANIME

THAT  
WAS AN  
OMEN  
OF THIS  
DIMEN-  
SION  
ASCEN-  
SION!

I GUESS  
WHEN  
CHILD  
PORN  
LAWS  
STARTED  
TREATING  
2D AS  
3D...

SEEMS LIKE  
KIND OF  
A ONE-  
DIMENSIONAL  
FANBASE.

POINTS,  
I GUESS...

WHAT IS  
THERE  
TO EVEN  
LIKE  
IN ONE  
DIMEN-  
SION?

DON'T WORRY,  
IF YOU LIKED  
SOMETHING IN  
ONE DIMENSION,  
YOU'LL PROBABLY  
STILL LIKE  
IT IF IT ASCENDS  
INTO TWO  
DIMENSIONS.

SO THEY'LL  
HAVE TO  
GIVE UP  
DRAWING...

WELL, 2D  
DOESN'T  
HOLD ANY  
MEANING  
FOR THEM  
ANY MORE.

WHAT'S GOING  
TO HAPPEN TO  
MANGAKA WHO  
DID THEIR OWN  
ILLUSTRATIONS?!

THAT  
SOUNDS  
LIKE THE  
OPPOSITE  
OF  
ASCENSION  
TO ME...

THAT'S  
ASCEN-  
SION!

AND  
BECOME  
JUST A  
MANGA  
WRITER  
INSTEAD!

THEY'LL HAVE  
TO GO TO  
AKITA AND  
WAIT FOR AN  
ASCENSION  
OF THEIR  
OWN.

WHAT'S  
GOING TO  
HAPPEN TO  
ALL THE  
ILLUSTRATORS?

SO  
THEY'LL  
HAVE NO  
IDEA OF  
WHAT A  
DEADLINE  
EVEN IS  
ANY-  
MORE!



SEE  
IN THIS  
WORLD,  
THERE  
IS NO  
CONCEPT  
OF  
TIME...

WON'T  
BE ABLE  
TO HIT  
THEIR  
DEAD-  
LINES!

THERE'S  
ANOTHER,  
FAR WORSE  
PROBLEM!  
ALL THE  
MANGA  
ARTISTS  
OUT THERE...

A-ARE YOU  
REALLY SURE  
ABOUT THAT?

**THAT'S  
ASCEN-  
SION!!**

HE MUST  
BE IN  
THE 8TH  
DIMENSION  
BY NOW  
AT LEAST.

HE'S WAY  
MORE THAN  
ASCENDED!

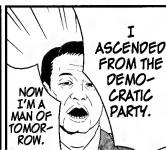
I GUESS  
TOGASHI-  
SENSEI  
HAS BEEN  
ASCENDED  
FOR A WHILE  
NOW, THEN.

SO THIS  
MUST  
MEAN  
THAT  
GAN...

NOPE.

HAS  
ANYONE  
SEEN  
HER?

WAIT A  
MINUTE,  
WHERE'S  
GAN-CHAN?



MOST  
OF THOSE  
DON'T  
SOUND  
TOO GOOD  
TO ME.



- Amateur Model ascending to magazine model
- Hikikomori ascending into internet Live-streamer
- Horny asshole ascending to a wise man after masturbating
- Graviure Idol ascending to porn star
- Ascending from calling your mother "mama" to calling her "Old Bag"
- Children's pocket money ascending to child-care allowance
- Wakash → Inada → Warasa → Bun
- The ascension of Urawa, Oniya, Yono into Saitama City
- Idol fans ascending into Momoro Clover Z Fans
- Decathlon athlete ascending to King of The Beasts
- Sabaie City Spectacles ascending into SABAE EYEWEAR
- Japan Airline's Ascension Prize
- Home Electronics store and Clothing store ascending together to become a store that sells both electronics and clothes

EVERYONE  
IS  
ASCENDING!  
ISN'T  
IT JUST  
LOVELY!?



THEY'LL  
ASCEND  
INTO  
LOVING  
4D!

WHAT  
ABOUT  
THOSE  
WHO WERE  
ALREADY  
INTO 3D  
IDOLS?  
WHAT  
HAPPENS  
TO THEM?



PEOPLE  
ASCENDING  
FROM LIKING  
2D TO  
LIKING 3D  
I CAN  
UNDERSTAND  
BUT...

SO AGE  
DOESN'T  
HAVE ANY  
MEANING  
ANYMORE  
EITHER...



WELL,  
THERE IS  
NO CONCEPT  
OF TIME  
ANYMORE.



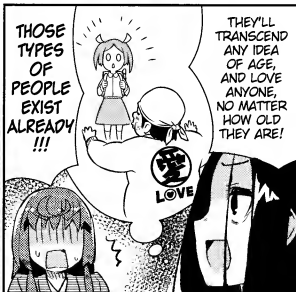
LOVING 4D?  
WHAT DO  
YOU MEAN?



HEY.

EHH?

THOSE  
TYPES  
OF  
PEOPLE  
EXIST  
ALREADY  
!!!



THEY'LL  
TRANSCEND  
ANY IDEA  
OF AGE,  
AND LOVE  
ANYONE,  
NO MATTER  
HOW OLD  
THEY ARE!



IT'S  
GAN-  
CHAN!!

SHE  
ASCENDED,  
JUST  
LIKE US!

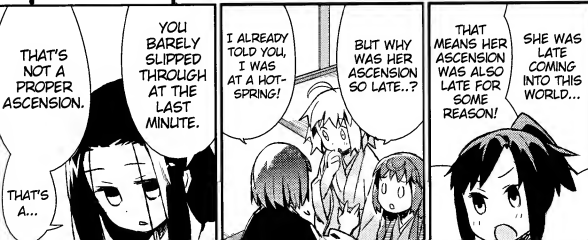
GAN-CHAN  
WASN'T  
DESTROYED  
AFTER ALL!



AH,  
I WON A BIT  
OF MONEY ON  
THE LOTTERY AND  
STAYED AT A  
HOT-SPRING FOR  
A LITTLE WHILE.

YOU HAVEN'T  
SHOWN  
YOUR FACE  
AROUND  
HERE FOR  
LIKE A MONTH,  
WHAT THE  
HELL WERE  
YOU DOING?

HUH?  
WHAT ARE  
YOU ON  
ABOUT?



THAT'S  
NOT A  
PROPER  
ASCENSION.

YOU  
BARELY  
SLIPPED  
THROUGH  
AT THE  
LAST  
MINUTE.

I ALREADY  
TOLD YOU,  
I WAS  
AT A HOT-  
SPRING!

BUT WHY  
WAS HER  
ASCENSION  
SO LATE..?

THAT  
MEANS HER  
ASCENSION  
WAS ALSO  
LATE FOR  
SOME  
REASON!

SHE WAS  
LATE  
COMING  
INTO THIS  
WORLD...

THAT'S  
A...

### Spare Ascension.

The people below filled a spare ascension vacancy.

- Kuurubiyuutei Gankyou.
- Naoto Kan.
- Kazuhiro Haraguchi.
- Kiyomi Tsujimoto.

THAT'S  
A  
SPARE  
ASCENSION!

BUT GAN  
WOULD  
BE  
ABOUT  
3.2~3.5  
AT  
BEST...

WE'D ALL  
BE AT  
ABOUT  
4.0~5.0.

YEAH,  
IF WE  
LOOKED  
AT OUR  
ASCENSION  
SCORES..

THE  
ASCENSION  
DIDN'T HIT  
ITS QUOTA  
SO SPARES  
GOT LET  
IN TOO?

WHAT?

FINALLY,  
I CAN BE  
THE ONE  
TO SAY  
THAT!!

HER  
LEVEL IS  
LOWER  
THAN  
MINE!

GAN

HEH, HER  
DIMENSION  
LEVEL IS  
LOWER  
THAN  
MINE.

IT'S JUST  
BECAUSE  
WE'RE IN  
A WHOLE  
OTHER  
DIMENSION  
COMPARED  
TO YOU.

WHY DO  
YOU ALL  
KEEP  
INSULTING  
ME?

WHAT ARE  
YOU GUYS  
EVEN TALKING  
ABOUT?

GAN-  
MODOKI  
TOFU!

IN THIS  
PLACE,  
GAN-CHAN,  
YOU'RE ONLY  
ON THE SAME  
LEVEL AS...







Yasu's  
comment

IN THE FIRST FEW CHAPTERS, GAN HAD A LITTLE FLOWER IN HER HAIR. SINCE SHE ALSO HAD GLASSES I FELT THAT HER DESIGN HAD A LITTLE TOO MUCH GOING ON, SO I QUIETLY GOT RID OF IT.

WITH HER GOTH LOLI COSPLAY HOBBY AND HER CRIPPLING DEBT, HER PRIVATE LIFE SEEMS KINDA COOL AND DANGEROUS, I LOVE IT!

OH YEAH... IN THE BEGINNING I KINDA KEPT FORGETTING THAT SHE WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE MASSIVE BOOBS, SO I ACCIDENTALLY DREW HER WITH SMALL ONES IN SOME OF THE OPENING PAGES A FEW TIMES (OOPS). I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT THAT.... \*SWEATS\*.

I MIGHT HAVE FORGOTTEN TO DRAW HER AS A TRUE "COOL BEAUTY" A FEW TIMES, AND FOR THAT I APOLOGIZE TOO.



# TRANSLATOR'S NOTES

## DIMENSIONLESS

TITLE (次元無 - JIGENMU - NO DIMENSION) IS A REFERENCE TO RAKUGO STORY JUGEMU (寿限無).  
SEE CHAPTER 27'S TL NOTES FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT JUGEMU.  
CHAPTER FIRST PUBLISHED 9TH JANUARY 2013.

PAGE 1:  
21ST DECEMBER 2012, DOOMSDAY.  
REFERENCE TO THE MAYAN CALENDAR AND THE SUPPOSED END OF THE WORLD.

PAGE 2:  
"ASCENDED"? WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?"  
THE WORD KUKURU USES IS 次元上昇 (JIGENJOU SHOU) WHICH LITERALLY MEANS DIMENSION ASCEND, AND WHICH SEEMS TO BE A MOSTLY NEW AGE TERM TO DESCRIBE ASCENSION. KUKURU SWITCHES BETWEEN THE ENGLISH WORD FOR ASCENSION AND JIGENJOU SHOU THROUGHOUT THE CHAPTER.

PAGE 5:  
"I GUESS WHEN CHILD PORN LAWS STARTED TO TREAT 2D AS 3D THAT WAS AN OMEN OF THIS DIMENSION ASCENSION!"  
2D LOLICON MATERIAL IS STILL LEGAL IN JAPAN, BUT HAS GROWN MORE CONTROVERSIAL OVER THE YEARS WITH BOTH FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC INSTITUTES CALLING FOR IT TO BE BANNED.

"SO THEY'LL HAVE TO GIVE UP DRAWING... AND BECOME JUST A MANGA WRITER INSTEAD!"  
KUMETA SELF-REFERENCING BEING JUST THE WRITER FOR JOSHIRAKU, NOT THE WRITER AND ILLUSTRATOR, AS HE IS FOR MOST OF HIS OTHER WORKS.

PAGE 6:  
"THEY'LL HAVE TO GO TO AKITA AND WAIT FOR AN ASCENSION OF THEIR OWN."  
REFERENCE TO CHAPTER 36'S END PAGE, "THE ADVENTURES OF YASU I" WHERE HE WENT AND LIVED IN AKITA FOR A MONTH.  
THOUGH NOT REVEALED ON THAT PAGE, THE STAY WAS RUMOURED TO BE DUE TO YASU AGREEING A CONTRACT TO START A NEW MANGA, "HOKKENSITSU", WHERE HE ACTED AS BOTH THE AUTHOR AND THE ILLUSTRATOR.  
IF YOU LIKE YASU'S STYLE, CHECK IT OUT, IT'S PRETTY COOL.

"IN THAT CASE I GUESS TOGASHI-SENSEI HAS BEEN ASCENDED FOR A WHILE NOW."  
"HE MUST BE IN THE 8TH DIMENSION BY NOW AT LEAST."  
YOSHIHIRO TOGASHI, AUTHOR OF HUNTER X HUNTER, FAMED FOR ITS LONG PERIODS OF INACTIVITY.

PAGE 7:  
"I ASCENDED FROM BEING A SWIMMER!"  
TAJIMA YASUKO, FAMOUS OLYMPIC SWIMMER WHO DID INDEED DO SOME ACTING WORK AFTER RETIRING FROM THE SPORT.

"I ASCENDED FROM THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY!"  
OZAWA ICHIRO, WHO LEFT THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF JAPAN TO JOIN THE TOMORROW PARTY OF JAPAN.

"I ASCENDED FROM AKB48!"  
SASHIHARA RINO, WHO WAS INVOLVED IN A SEX SCANDAL AND WAS DEMOTED TO HKT48, ALSO REFERENCED IN CHAPTER 37.



## PAGE 8:

### ASCENSION LIST:

- HORNY ASSHOLE ASCENDING TO A WISE MAN AFTER MASTURBATING.  
REFERENCE TO JAPANESE INTERNET MEME 賢者タイム (KENJA TAIMU - WISE-MAN TIME) WHICH IS THE PERIOD AFTER MASTURBATION IN WHICH A MAN CAN THINK CLEARLY AND FREELY.

- WAKASHI -> INADA -> WARASA -> BURI.

ALL OF THESE NAMES ARE NAMES FOR THE JAPANESE AMBERJACK FISH AT ITS DIFFERENT DEVELOPMENTAL STAGES. THE DIFFERENT AGES PROVIDE DIFFERENT TASTES IN COOKING ETC.

- THE ASCENSION OF URAWA, OMIYA, YONO INTO SAITAMA CITY.

SAITAMA CITY WAS FORMALLY CREATED IN 2001 AFTER MERGING THE 3 CITIES LISTED ABOVE.

- DECATHLON ATHLETE ASCENDING TO KING OF THE BEASTS.

SO TAKEI IS A DECATHELETE KNOWN BY HIS NICKNAME, "KING OF THE BEASTS".

- JAPAN AIRLINE'S ASCENSION PRIZE.

REFERENCE TO AN OLD JAPAN AIRLINE COMPETITION SLOGAN, "ASCENSION PRIZE", WHICH IS A PUN ON THE JAPANESE PRONUNCIATION OF "ATTENTION PLEASE".

- HOME ELECTRONICS STORES AND CLOTHING STORES ASCENDING TOGETHER TO BECOME A STORE THAT SELLS BOTH ELECTRONICS AND CLOTHES.

REFERENCE TO JAPANESE ELECTRONICS STORE BIC CAMERA AND UNIQLO WHO TEAMED UP TO CREATE BICSILO.

## PAGE 10:

### SPARE ASCENSION LIST:

KUURUBIMUITEI GANKYOU, NAOTO KAN, KAZUHIRO HARABUCHI, KIYOMI TSUJIMOTO.

ALL OF THESE ARE JAPANESE POLITICIANS WHO FAILED TO WIN ENOUGH VOTES TO WIN A SEAT IN THE JAPANESE LOWER HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT IN THEIR SINGLE SEAT CONSTITUENCY, BUT WON A SEAT ANYWAY THROUGH OTHER, PROPORTIONALLY DISTRIBUTED CONSTITUENCIES. EXCEPT GAN, OBVIOUSLY.

"IN THIS PLACE, GAN-CHAN, YOU'RE ONLY ON THE SAME LEVEL AS... GANMODOKI TOFU!"

GANMODOKI IS A FRIED TOFU FRITTER MADE WITH VEGETABLES, EGG WHITE AND SESAME SEEDS.

## PAGE 11, PANEL 1:

THE WRESTLING MOVE THAT GAN IS USING IS THE FLYING CROSS CHOP, FAMOUSLY USED BY MIL MASCARAS.

### "A FOUR DIMENSIONAL STYLE ATTACK!"

FOUR DIMENSIONAL STYLE WAS THE NAME GIVEN TO THE FIRST TIGER MASK'S (SAYAMA SATORU) FIGHTING STYLE, BY SPORTS COMMENTATOR FUJITACHI ICHIRO. IT INCORPORATED MARTIAL ARTS TECHNIQUES AND LUCHA LIBRE MANOEUVERS. REFERENCES TO THIS FOUR-DIMENSIONAL STYLE CAN BE FOUND IN MANY WRESTLING MANGA AND ANIME. THE PERSON SPEAKING IS TOSHIHIRO MIURA, JOSHIRAKU'S FORMER EDITOR AND FREQUENT RECURRING GUEST. HE HAS BEEN STYLED HERE TO LOOK LIKE FORMER JAPANESE WRESTLER ANTONIO INOKI. THE WAY HE'S SPEAKING IS MODELLED ON OLD SHONEN WRESTLING MANGA.

## PAGE 12:

### "STOP THAT, IT'S WEIRD!"

WHAT KUKURU IS DOING HERE IS KNOWN AS "USHI NO TOKI MAIRI" (OX-HOUR SHRINE-VISIT).

IT'S A TRADITIONAL JAPANESE METHOD FOR LAYING A CURSE ON SOMEONE.

TO PULL OFF THE CURSE, THE PRACTITIONER MUST DRIVE A NAIL THROUGH A STRAW EFFIGY OF THE PERSON THEY WISH TO CURSE, AND AFFIX IT TO A SACRED TREE AT A SHINTO SHRINE IN THE EARLY HOURS OF THE MORNING, A PERIOD KNOWN AS THE "OX HOUR".

IF THEY CAN DO THIS 7 TIMES WITHOUT BEING DISCOVERED, THEN THE CURSE IS SUCCESSFUL AND THE CURSED PERSON DIES.

### BADMOUTHING ON THE INTERNET.

ON THE COMPUTER SCREEN HERE YOU CAN SEE A VASE-SHAPED POT.

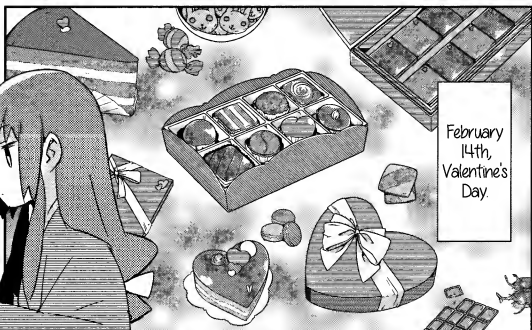
THIS POT IS PRESENT ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE JAPANESE WEBSITE "2CHANNEL", FOUNDED IN 1999 BY NISHIMURA HIROYUKI.





AUTHOR KUMETA NANCY KOJI

MANGA SID VICIOYASU



February  
14th,  
Valentine's  
Day.



AH, MARI-SAN!  
THERE'S A  
WHOLE HEAP  
OF PRESENTS  
WAITING FOR  
YOU UPSTAIRS!

Due to persistent  
rumours that she  
is actually a  
cross-dressing boy,  
every year Mari-san  
is given mountains of  
chocolate by secret  
admirers



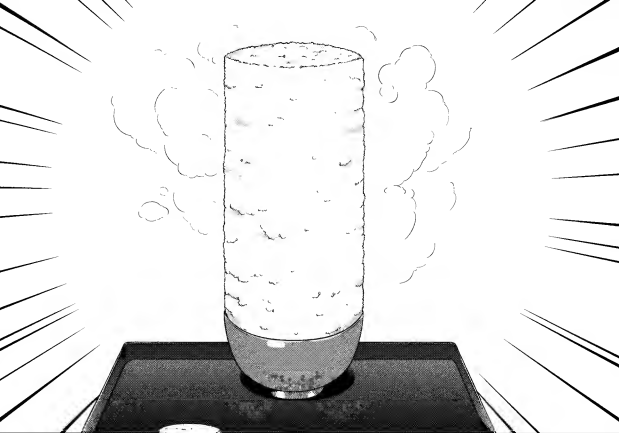
AGAIN?  
MORE  
CHOCO-  
LATES,  
MAYBE...



THIS  
IS...



But  
this  
time.





IT'S  
FOR  
THE  
RICE  
PILE  
FESTI-  
VAL!



JUST  
SHUT  
UP,  
MARI-  
SAN...

"RICE PILE  
FESTIVAL"?  
WHAT?



EAT  
UNTIL  
YOU'RE  
FULL!!

EAT  
IT UP!!

GULP



CHEW  
CHEW



AND  
EAT THE  
DAMN  
RICE  
ALREADY!

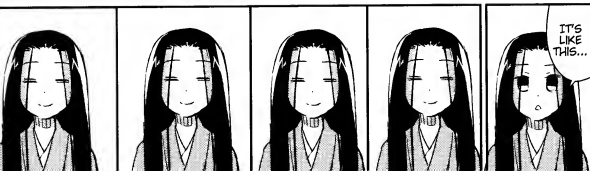


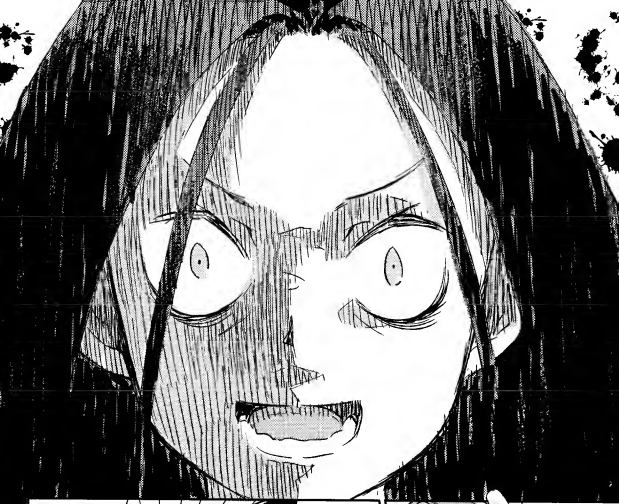
WHAT  
THE HELL  
DID YOU  
DO THAT  
FOR?!

MMFF~



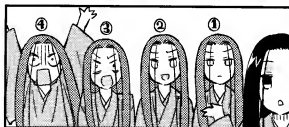






SCARY  
!!

GET  
IT?

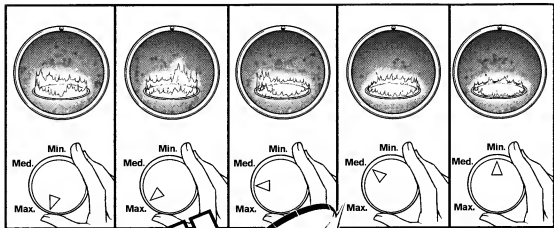


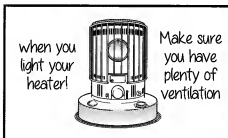
THERE'S NO  
STEPS OR  
GRADUATIONS  
LIKE THIS,  
IT'S ALL ONE  
THING OR THE  
OPPOSITE.

IT  
IS?

THE HEATER IN  
OUR DRESSING  
ROOM IS KINDA  
LIKE THAT.

ARRRGH!!





- Sudden Child Porn
- Suddenly Ignored by the producer
- Sudden adult video performances
- Suddenly Unemployed
- Sudden Breaking News
- Sudden Criminalisation
- Sudden Registration Closure
- Sudden Audience
- Suddenly serving juice in an alcohol glass
- Sudden Heavy snow
- Suddenly moving to a smartphone from a flip phone

- Sudden Cheap Yen
- Sudden Strong Markets
- Sudden Hakata and Jakarta
- Sudden Priesthood
- Sudden sex change surgery
- Sudden 'Our journey has only just begun!'
- Sudden stuffed bear sales to boys
- Sudden death from golden goals
- Sudden Int. song
- Sudden trip to Akita





STRING..

WELL  
THERE'S  
ANOTHER  
THING THAT  
CAN BREAK  
TOO...



THEY SAY THAT  
THE JAPANESE  
HAVE NO MIDDLE  
GROUND AND  
CAN SUDDENLY  
BREAK UNDER  
PRESSURE.



LIHHH...

W-WAIT,  
WHAT'S  
WRONG?

**All of a sudden the story  
comes to a grinding halt.**



WE  
CAN'T!  
THE  
FLOW  
HAS  
BEEN  
BROKEN!

SOME-  
ONE SAY  
SOME-  
THING,  
ANY-  
THING!



WHAT  
DO WE  
DO!?!

THE  
AUTHOR'S  
STRING OF  
THOUGHT  
HAS BEEN  
BROKEN!



WE NEED  
TO GET  
BACK  
TO OUR  
ROOTS!

WAIT, MAYBE  
WE'VE BEEN  
WRONG ALL  
ALONG,  
TRYING  
TO SAY  
INTERESTING  
THINGS,

SALMON  
OR  
PICKLED  
PLUMS?

HEY  
EVERYONE,  
WHICH  
SIDE-DISH  
FOR RICE  
DO YOU  
PREFER?

PURE  
DELIGHT

DON'T  
ASK  
STUPID  
QUES-  
TIONS!

So that the cuteness of the girls can be fully enjoyed, this manga offers completely inoffensive dialogue that will not bother the reader.

DON'T  
ASK  
STUPID  
QUES-  
TIONS!

DON'T  
ASK  
STUPID  
QUES-  
TIONS!!

I GUESS  
NOBODY  
CARES  
ANYMORE  
SINCE WE'RE  
SO CLOSE  
TO THE  
END...

WHAT THE  
HELL IS  
GOING ON  
ALL OF A  
SUDDEN?

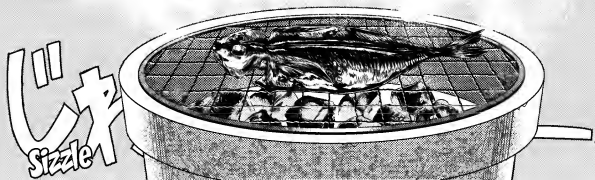
ALL THIS  
PLAIN  
RICE BY  
ITSELF  
WOULD  
BE SO  
BORING!

OH RIGHT,  
WHEN IT  
COMES  
TO SIDE  
DISHES  
ANYTHING  
IS FINE,

WHAT  
ARE YOU  
TALKING  
ABOUT?

SINCE IT'S  
JUST PLAIN,  
ISN'T THIS  
RICE SORT OF  
A CRAPPY,  
BORING  
PRESENT  
INSTEAD OF  
A PROPER  
HEARTFELT  
ONE?

WELL LIKE,  
EVEN IF  
YOU THINK  
CHOCOLATE  
IS KINDA CRAPPY,  
YOU CAN STILL  
TURN IT A  
GOOD PRESENT  
IF YOU ADD...







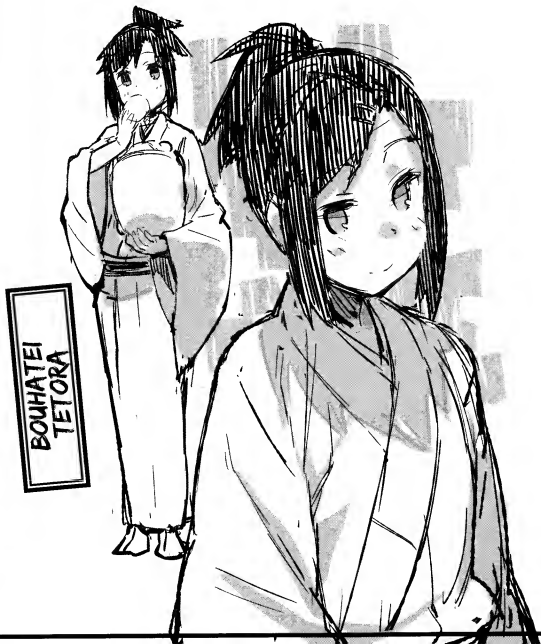
Yasu's  
comment

TETORA ACTS LIKE A KIND OF BUFFER AGAINST ALL THE INSANITY OF THE OTHERS. THOUGH SHE NEVER EVER GETS BOGGED DOWN OR DROWNED OUT, THAT'S ALL THANKS TO KUMETA-SENSEI'S WRITING AND THE WONDERFUL PERSONALITY HE GAVE TO HER.

TETORA WAS CREATED AFTER THE FIRST CHAPTER HAD ALREADY BEEN MADE. ME AND KUMETA SUDDENLY DECIDED THAT WE NEEDED TO ADD ANOTHER CHARACTER, SO SHE WAS KIND OF DESIGNED IN A HURRY.

WE'D RUN OUT OF HAIR COLOURS FOR HER TO HAVE, AND HER HAIR DESIGN IS A LITTLE MORE PLAIN, BUT SHE FITS IN WELL THE OTHERS, THANKFULLY.

SHE CAN EAT WHATEVER SHE WANTS WITHOUT GETTING FAT,  
GOD DAMN IT I'M SO JEALOUS!



# TRANSLATOR'S NOTES.

## SUDDEN CUT

THE TITLE (突ギレ - TOTSU GIRE) IS A REFERENCE TO RAKUGO STORY たちぎれ (TACHIGIRE - TIME'S UP). THE STORY IS ABOUT A WOMANIZING YOUNG MAN WHO WASTES HIS FAMILY'S MONEY AND THREATENS THEIR HONOUR BY SPENDING SO MUCH TIME IN VARIOUS TAVERNS AND BROTHELS. CONCERNED, HIS FAMILY FINALLY TAKES ACTION AND DECIDES TO KEEP HIM IMPRISONED ON THEIR GROUNDS FOR 100 DAYS, SO THAT HE CAN REFLECT PROPERLY ON HIS ACTIONS. UPON LEAVING HIS IMPRISONMENT, HE IS DISTRAUGHT TO FIND THAT HIS GEISHA GIRLFRIEND, KOITO, HAS DIED AND IS CONVINCED THAT IT WAS BECAUSE OF HIS SUDDEN DISAPPEARANCE. HE VISITS A TEAHOUSE AND TALKS TO THE PROPRIETRESS ABOUT KOITO, WHILE SHE INITIALLY THINKS THAT IT WAS HIS FAULT THAT KOITO DIED, SHE FORGIVES HIM ONCE SHE FINDS OUT THAT HE WAS FORCIBLY IMPRISONED, SHE TAKES HIM TO SEE KOITO'S FINAL RESTING PLACE. THE YOUNG MAN BRINGS A SHAMISEN AND PLACES IT ON HER GRAVE. AS HE APOLOGIZES AND SOBS OVER HIS ACTIONS, THE SHAMISEN BEGINS TO PLAY ITSELF.

CHAPTER FIRST PUBLISHED 9TH FEBRUARY 2013.

## TITLE PAGE:

KUMETA "NANCY" KOUJI AND SID VICIOUS/YASU.

REFERENCE TO THE SEX PISTOLS' BASSIST SID VICIOUS, AND HIS GIRLFRIEND NANCY SPUNGEN.

## PAGE 1:

VALENTINE'S DAY.

IN JAPAN, GIRLS GIVE BOYS CHOCOLATE ON VALENTINE'S DAY, NOT THE OTHER WAY ROUND. THE CHOCOLATE SHAPED LIKE A BEETLE IN THIS PANEL IS A REFERENCE TO FAMOUS SWEET SHOP KOMATSUYA HONTEN, BASED IN AKITA. THOUGH NOT INCLUDED IN THE TANKOBAN SCANS, ON THE MAGAZINE VERSION OF THIS CHAPTER, THERE WAS A MARGIN NOTE THAT SAID, "FROM NOTO AND AKITA WITH LOVE!", A REFERENCE TO KUMETA STAYING AT A HOT-SPRING IN NOTO AT THE TIME OF THE CHAPTER'S WRITING, AND YASU VISITING HIS GIRLFRIEND ON HIS TRIP TO AKITA THAT WAS MENTIONED IN THE LAST VOLUME, AS WELL AS SIGNING A CONTRACT FOR A NEW MANGA THERE.

## PAGE 2:

"WELL PEOPLE SAY THAT THEY PREFER MONEY AND RICE OVER CHOCOLATE."

PREFERRING RICE OVER CHOCOLATE IS A WAY OF SAYING YOU PREFER RELIABLE STABILITY INSTEAD OF FLASHINESS.

## PAGE 3:

IT'S FOR THE RICE PILE FESTIVAL!

THE RICE PILE FESTIVAL OR THE "MOSSOU FESTIVAL" IS A TRADITIONAL FESTIVAL HELD IN WAJIMA. PEOPLE STACK THEIR BOWLS WITH AS MUCH RICE AS THEY CAN IN THE COLUMN SHAPE YOU SEE IN THE PANEL. IT TRADITIONALLY TAKES PLACE ON THE 16TH FEBRUARY.

## PAGE 4:

"IN THOSE OLDEN DAYS, FARMERS IN THE KAGA DOMAIN..."

THE KAGA DOMAIN WAS AN AREA OF JAPAN IN THE EDO PERIOD COMPRISING OF THE PROVINCES OF KAGA, NOTO AND ETCHU, IT WAS ECONOMICALLY DEPENDANT ON THE RICE HARVESTS.

"SOUNDS LIKE SOMEONE WENT ON AN INFORMATION GATHERING TRIP."

AGAIN, A REFERENCE TO KUMETA GOING ON A SPA-TRIP TO NOTO OVER THE NEW YEAR PERIOD, AND BEING TRAPPED THERE FOR AN EXTENDED AMOUNT OF TIME DUE TO HEAVY SNOW. THIS EVENT IS PROBABLY ALSO REFERENCED IN THE PREVIOUS CHAPTER WHERE GAN DISAPPEARS TO A SPA FOR A LONG TIME, TOO.

"BUYING CLOTHES FOR YOUR "WIFE" SO THAT THE GIRLS IN YOUR MANGA CAN WEAR THEM."

I COULDN'T FIND MUCH INFORMATION REGARDING THIS REFERENCE. I'M GOING TO ASSUME THAT IT'S KUMETA THAT DOES THIS THOUGH, AS THE MAIN FEMALE CAST IN SZS IS USUALLY IMPECCABLY WELL-DRESSED WHEN NOT WEARING UNIFORM, TO THE POINT OF LOOKING LIKE RICH COLLEGE STUDENTS, WHO ARE KNOWN FOR BEING FASHION CONSCIOUS IN JAPAN.

AS FOR THE WIFE PART, AS FAR AS I CAN TELL, KUMETA IS NOT MARRIED (OR IS AT LEAST VERY SECRETIVE ABOUT IT), AND IS JUST MAKING A JOKE ABOUT HOSTESS BAR GIRLS BEING HIS "WIFE".

(BUYING CLOTHES AND GIFTS FOR HOSTESS BAR GIRLS IS COMMON).

HOWEVER THERE IS A RECURRING JOKE ON THE INTERNET THAT HE'S MARRIED TO RYOKO SHINTANI (UZANNII'S VOICE ACTRESS).



**PAGE 8:**  
**SUDDEN LIST:**  
**SUDDEN CHILD PORN.**  
REFERENCE TO IDOL TOMOMI KASAI, WHO WAS PHOTOGRAPHED WITH A CHILD HOLDING HER BREASTS LIKE A HAND-BRA.  
IT CAUSED A HUGE SCANDAL THAT GOT REPORTED EVEN IN THE WEST.

**SUDDENLY IGNORED BY THE PRODUCER.**  
REFERENCE TO IDOL GROUPS AND SEX SCANDALS CAUSING THEM TO BE FIRED.

**SUDDENLY SERVING JUICE IN AN ALCOHOL GLASS.**  
REFERENCE TO AN INCIDENT IN JAPAN IN WHICH A SHOP CAUSED A CONTROVERSY BY SERVING CHILDREN SOFT DRINKS  
INSIDE A HIGH-BALL GLASS.

**SUDDEN HEAVY SNOW.**  
REFERENCE TO THE HEAVY SNOW THAT STRANDED KUMETA IN NOTO.

**SUDDENLY MOVING TO A SMARTPHONE FROM A FLIP-PHONE.**  
FLIP-PHONES WERE MASSIVELY POPULAR IN JAPAN WAY AFTER THEY'D LOST FAVOUR IN THE REST OF THE WORLD,  
HOWEVER JAPAN IS NOW FIRMLY ON THE SMARTPHONE CRAZE.

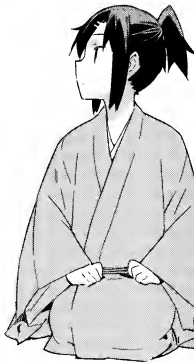
**SUDDEN CHEAP YEN. SUDDEN STRONG MARKETS.**  
REFERENCE TO ABENOMICS, SHINZO ABE'S PLAN TO RESTORE JAPAN'S ECONOMY.  
THE PLAN INVOLVED QUANTITATIVE EASING, I.E. PRINTING MORE MONEY TO SLIGHTLY DEVALUE THE YEN.  
DEVALUING YOUR OWN CURRENCY MAKES IT EASIER TO EXPORT GOODS.

**SUDDEN HAKATA AND JAKARTA.**  
REFERENCE TO AKB48 SPIN-OFF GROUPS, HKT48 AND JKT48.

**PAGE 10:**  
**"ISN'T THIS RICE KIND OF AN CRAPPY, BORING PRESENT?"**  
IN THE ORIGINAL SCRIPT, THIS RICE IS CALLED "GIRI-MAI" (LIT. OBLIGATION RICE). THIS IS A REFERENCE TO  
GIRI-CHOCO, WHICH IS A CHEAP CHOCOLATE GIFT THAT YOU GIVE TO A CO-WORKER OR CLASSMATE THAT YOU AREN'T  
ROMANTICALLY ATTACHED TO ON VALNETINE'S DAY. THE OPPOSITE OF THIS IS HONMEI-CHOCO, WHICH IS A MORE  
ELABORATE PRESENT, USUALLY HAND-MADE THAT YOU GIVE TO SOMEONE YOU ACTUALLY LIKE.

**PAGE 11:**  
**"SIDE-DISHES BEHIND THE BLACKBOARD?!"**  
THE SIDE DISHES HERE INCLUDE: NATTO (FERMENTED SOYBEANS),  
TAMAGOYAKI (A KIND OF OMELETTE), MENTAIKO (POLLACK EGGS),  
SURSTROMMING (FERMENTED BALTIC SEA HERRING), PORK CUTLETS,  
CRAB CROQUETTES AND SOME PORN MAGS FOR GOOD MEASURE.

**PAGE 12:**  
**"WELL I GUESS IT'S FINE IF OUR READERS JUST WANT TO USE  
MARII-SAN AS A "SIDE-DISH" OF THEIR OWN..."**  
オカズ - 'OKAZU' MEANS "SIDE DISH FOR RICE" BUT CAN ALSO MEAN  
"MATERIAL FOR MASTURBATION" OR "MASTURBATION SIDE-DISH" MORE LITERALLY.



# ひよろく

J O A K U







IT'S  
SUCH A  
MESS!



BECAUSE  
YOU NEVER  
EVER KNOW  
WHAT YOU'RE  
GOING  
TO GET!

UHH,  
WHAT?  
WHY?



BUT  
WHITE DAY  
DOESN'T  
MAKE  
SENSE,  
YOU CAN  
BE GIVEN  
ANYTHING!

ON VALENTINE'S  
DAY YOU GET  
CHOCOLATE!  
THAT'S JUST WHAT  
HAPPENS, IT'S SET  
IN STONE!

NOW  
THAT YOU  
MENTION IT,  
THAT IS  
A LITTLE  
STRANGE.



AFTER  
ALL THESE  
YEARS  
IT'S STILL  
ALL SO  
VAGUE!!

I  
THOUGHT  
IT WAS  
MARSH-  
MALLOWS?

IN THE  
BEGINNING,  
YOU WERE  
SUPPOSED  
TO GIVE  
CANDY.



BUT IF  
YOU  
REALLY  
WANNA  
MAKE AN  
IMPACT  
ON WHITE  
DAY  
THEN...

CANDY AND  
MARSH-  
MALLOWS  
ARE FINE,  
I GUESS.



IT'S  
SO CON-  
FUSING  
FOR THE  
BOYS!

YOU  
CAN'T GET  
EXCITED  
BECAUSE  
YOU DON'T  
KNOW WHAT  
YOU'RE  
GOING  
TO GET!





HMM...

TO BE HONEST,  
I DON'T THINK  
I'D BE TOO  
PLEASED IF  
I JUST GOT  
CANDY OR  
MARSHMALLOWS  
ON WHITE DAY.

THOSE THINGS  
ARE KINDA CHEAP,  
SO THAT'S  
PROBABLY WHY  
THEY FEEL OBLIGED  
TO GIVE SOME  
JEWELRY AS WELL.

SOME GUYS  
AND THEIR NICE  
GUY ATTITUDES  
DON'T FEEL  
RIGHT JUST  
GIVING SWEETS  
OR MARSH-  
MALLOWS,

THAT'S  
NO  
GOOD!

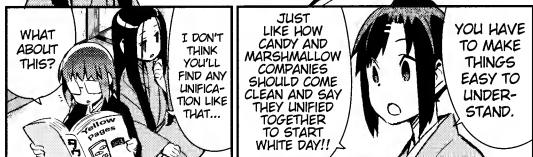
WHAT  
ABOUT  
JUST  
GIVING  
JEWELRY  
IN THE  
FIRST PLACE?

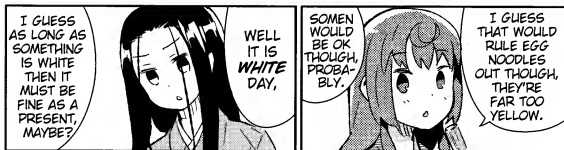
THEY  
WOULDN'T  
FEEL  
GUILTY,  
AND THEY  
WOULDN'T  
WANT TO  
GIVE ANY  
JEWELRY!

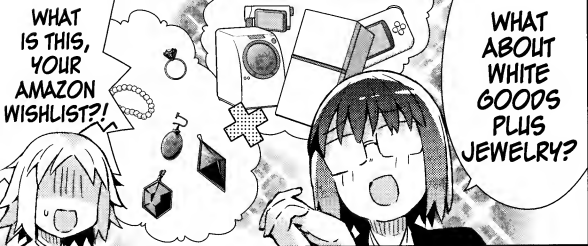
IF THEY  
HAD TO GIVE  
WONDERFUL,  
LUXURIOUS  
SWEETS  
THEN...

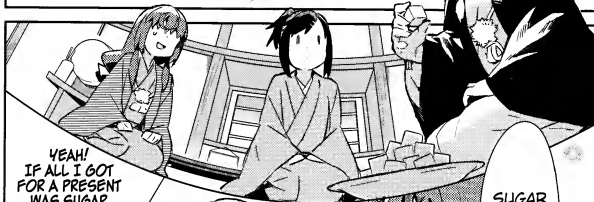
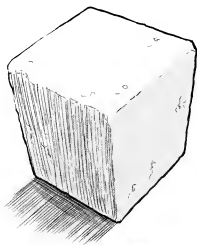
AND  
GETTING  
THE  
"SERVICE"  
WITHOUT  
HAVING  
A BATH!

THAT'S  
LIKE  
GOING TO  
A SOAP-  
LAND,









YEAH!  
IF ALL I GOT  
FOR A PRESENT  
WAS SUGAR  
CUBES, THEN  
THE JEWELRY  
WOULD HAVE  
TO BE EXTRA  
GORGEOUS TO  
MAKE UP FOR IT,  
RIGHT?

SUGAR  
CUBES?



WHO DID  
YOU GIVE  
CHOCOLATE  
TO ON  
VALENTINE'S  
DAY?

HEY,  
GAN-  
CHAN...

AHHH,  
I WANT  
SUGAR  
CUBES  
FOR  
WHITE  
DAY!



I  
SEE...

NOBODY.



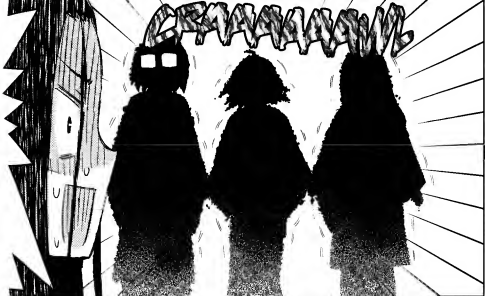
THEN  
YOU WON'T  
GET ANY  
PRESENTS  
BACK  
EITHER.

WELL,  
IF YOU  
DIDN'T  
GIVE ANY  
PRESENTS  
TO ANYONE,

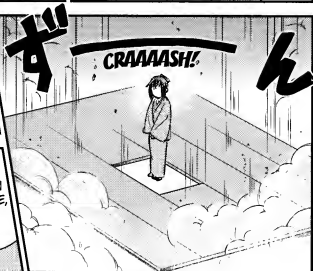
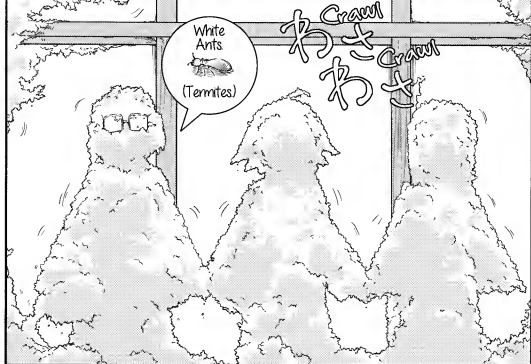




UG-  
YAAA  
AAAA  
AAAH  
!!







Yasu's  
comment

THE MORE I DRAW KUKURU, THE MORE I OBSESS OVER GETTING HER HAIR RIGHT. I'VE OFTEN THOUGHT ABOUT CHANGING HER HAIRSTYLE, BUT I'M A LITTLE SCARED OF SCREWING UP HER IMAGE SO I ALWAYS JUST LEAVE IT ALONE.

SEEING HER WITH SO MANY DIFFERENT HAIRSTYLES IN THE TRAVELLING SEGMENTS IN THE ANIME WAS JUST WONDERFUL! THEY GOT A LOT OF MILEAGE OUT OF HER LONG HAIR.

ORIGINALLY, KUKURU WORE A WHITE KIMONO, WHICH MADE HER LOOK EVEN MORE ETHEREAL.

SHE'S ALWAYS SO MUCH FUN TO DRAW.



ANRAKUTEI  
KIKURI

# TRANSLATOR'S NOTES

## PROPERLY EVALUATED DOUBLE SUICIDE

THE TITLE (品定め心中 - SHINASADAME SHINJUU) IS A REFERENCE TO RAKUGO STORY 品川心中 (SHINAGAWA SHINJUU). THE STORY REVOLVES AROUND A PROSTITUTE WORKING IN A SHINAGAWA BATHHOUSE. AFTER NOT GETTING ANY NEW CUSTOMERS FOR A WHILE AND BEING MOCKED FOR IT BY THE YOUNGER GIRLS, AND LACKING ANY MONEY TO RETIRE OR GO ON A BREAK, SHE DECIDES TO COMMIT SUICIDE. HOWEVER SHE DOES NOT WANT TO DO IT ALONE, AND HAS ASPIRATIONS OF A ROMANTIC AND GRANDIOSE LOVER'S SUICIDE, SO SHE WAITS UNTIL HER FAVOURITE CUSTOMER ARRIVES, A BOOKSELLER NAMED KINZO, WHO SHE THEN "COERCES" INTO JOINING HER. CHAPTER FIRST PUBLISHED 9TH MARCH 2013.

PAGE 1:  
"BUT THIS WHITE DAY, I GOT LOTS AND LOTS OF PRESENTS FROM OUR GUESTS!"

ON VALENTINE'S DAY IN JAPAN, GIRLS GIVE CHOCOLATE TO THE BOYS, AND ON WHITE DAY, WHICH TAKES PART EXACTLY ONE MONTH AFTER, THE BOYS GIVE PRESENTS TO THE GIRLS.

PAGE 2:  
"AFTER ALL THESE YEARS IT'S STILL ALL SO VAGUE!!!"

WHITE DAY WAS FIRST CELEBRATED IN 1978 IN JAPAN AND WAS RUMOURED TO HAVE BEEN STARTED BY THE NATIONAL CONFECTIONERY INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION AS AN "ANSWER DAY" TO VALENTINE'S DAY, AS A WAY TO DRIVE UP PROFITS IN SPRING, IN LIEU OF JAPAN NOT CELEBRATING EASTER. IN 1977, A FUKUOKA-BASED CONFECTIONERY COMPANY, "ISHIMURA SANSEIDO", MARKETED MARSHMALLOWS TO MEN ON MARCH 14, CALLING IT MARSHMALLOW DAY. BOTH COMPANIES SORT OF LAY CLAIM TO THE IDEA OF CREATING WHITE DAY.

PAGE 4:  
"THAT'S LIKE GOING TO A SOAPLAND AND GETTING THE "SERVICE" WITHOUT HAVING A BATH!"

A SOAPLAND IS A KIND OF BROTHEL. IN JAPAN, EXPLICIT PROSTITUTION WAS BANNED IN THE 1950S, SOAPLANDS GET AROUND THIS BAN BY TECHNICALLY ONLY OFFERING UP THE USE OF THE BATHHOUSE AS WELL AS A PARTNER TO WASH YOU. ANYTHING THAT HAPPENS WITH THE PARTNER AFTER THE BATH IS LEFT TO THE DISCRETION OF THE CUSTOMER AND THE PARTNER, AND IS THEREFORE JUST ABOUT LEGAL IF YOU DON'T THINK ABOUT IT TOO HARD.

PAGE 5:  
"IT'S SAYS RIGHT HERE, UNIFICATIONISM."

PUN ON THE JAPANESE WORD FOR UNIFIED BUSINESS, 統一業界 (TOUITSU GYOUKAI) AND THE JAPANESE NAME FOR THE UNIFICATION CHURCH (統一教会 - TOUITSU KYOUKAI). THE UNIFICATION CHURCH WAS FOUNDED IN 1954 BY SUN MYUNG MOON IN SOUTH KOREA. ITS BELIEFS ARE DERIVED FROM THE CHRISTIAN BIBLE, THUS WHY I USED THE STANDARD LORD'S PRAYER FOR THE JOKE LATER ON THE PAGE.

"!!!"AND LE~D US FROM TEMPTATION\$... AMEN"

GAN HEARS "AMEN" HERE, WHICH SOUNDS LIKE A JAPANESE WORD FOR SWEETS OR CANDY, "AME", AND ALSO THE WORD FOR NOODLES, 麺 (MEN).

PAGE 6:  
"WHAT ABOUT TOFU AND YUBA AND STUFF LIKE THAT?"

TOFU IS A SOFT WHITE BLOCK MADE FROM COAGULATING SOY MILK AND PRESSING THE CURDS TOGETHER. DURING THIS PROCESS, A SKIN APPEARS ON TOP OF THE MILK, THIS SKIN IS PEELED OFF AND DRIED, WITH THE RESULT CALLED YUBA, OR TOFU SKIN.

PAGE 7:  
"WHAT ABOUT WHITE GOODS PLUS JEWELRY?"  
"WHAT IS THIS, YOUR AMAZON WISHLIST?!"

WHITE GOODS IS THE NAME GENERALLY GIVEN TO LARGE WHITE KITCHEN APPLIANCES. THE JAPANESE TERM GAN USES HERE IS 白物家電 WHICH DIRECTLY TRANSLATES TO "WHITE APPLIANCES".

KIGU MENTIONS A JAPANESE ELECTRONICS STORE CALLED YODOBASHI CAMERA RATHER THAN AMAZON. IT OPERATES MUCH THE SAME WAY AS AMAZON, BUT FOCUSES ON ELECTRONICS AND APPLIANCES RATHER THAN BOOKS AND MEDIA.





I JUST  
FEEL SO  
BORED  
AND  
LISTLESS.

UGH...  
I KNOW  
IT'S  
SPRING  
AND I  
SHOULD  
BE HAPPY  
BUT...

THE  
KANJI  
FOR  
SPRING.

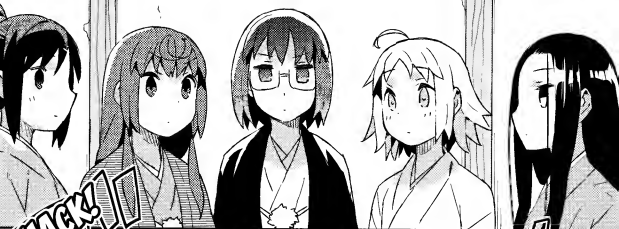
春  
Spring

IT'S  
BECAUSE  
OF THIS,

A DAY  
FOR  
THREE  
PEOPLE!

WHEN  
YOU  
SPLIT IT  
UP LIKE  
THIS, IT  
MEANS...

三  
Three  
人  
Person  
日  
Day  
← 春  
Spring





WAAAAHA!

BUT FOUR OR MORE SEEMS LIKE THEY'RE JUST THERE FOR A WORK SEMINAR OR SOMETHING.

TWO PEOPLE GOING TO SEE THE SPRING CHERRY BLOSSOMS BY THEMSELVES SEEMS KINDA SAD AND LONELY...

IF THERE WAS 4, THE LAST IN THE LINE WOULD GET EATEN BY A BEAR FOR SURE.



IF YOU'RE HIKING UP A MOUNTAIN TO HAVE A PICNIC, 3 PEOPLE IS PERFECT.

THOSE FROM GROUPS WITH 3 MEMBERS ARE THE BEST.



AND WHEN IT COMES TO SONGS ABOUT SPRING,

HMM? WHAT'S WRONG, KIGU?

I KNEW IT! WE JUST NEED TO GET RID OF THE OTHER TWO!

LIHHH, I THINK YOU MIGHT BE GIVING GAN-CHAN THE WRONG IDEA HERE...

EHH?! KIGU-CHAN WHAT'S WRONG?!

SOB SOB SOB SOB

CRACK

IT CAUSED  
ME TO BE  
ABANDONED  
BY MY BEST  
FRIENDS!

B-BACK WHEN  
I WAS A KID,  
THERE WAS A  
SONG ABOUT  
HOW SPRING  
MEANT A DAY  
JUST FOR 3  
PEOPLE...

ME AND  
MY 3 BEST  
FRIENDS  
USED  
TO PLAY  
TOGETHER  
EVERY  
SINGLE DAY,  
BUT THEN  
SPRING  
CAME...



WHEN  
I WAS IN  
ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL,

There's  
3 of us  
already,  
so we  
can't play  
with you  
anymore!



Spring  
means  
a day  
for 3  
people!



3 people,  
3 people,  
3 people.

A day for  
3 people!



We don't  
need her  
anymore!



Spring  
means  
a day  
for 3  
people!

THAT'S  
JUST  
STRAIGHT  
UP  
BULLY-  
ING!

WHAT  
THE-  
THAT'S  
AWFUL  
!!!!

WAAAAHH







I'M  
GONNA  
CRUSH  
ALL  
BULLIES  
INTO THE  
GROUND!

ALL  
BULLYING  
MUST BE  
STOPPED!



I'VE  
CHANGED  
MY MIND  
ABOUT  
SPRING!

I'M  
SO  
SORRY,  
KIGU-  
CHAN!

HER  
HEART'S  
IN THE  
RIGHT  
PLACE,  
I THINK...

UHH, ISN'T  
THAT KINDA  
COUNTER-  
PRODUCTIVE?



WE DIDN'T  
MEAN TO  
BRING  
BACK BAD  
MEMORIES  
FOR YOU.

ARE  
YOU OK,  
KIGU-  
CHAN?



I KNEW  
THAT  
SONG WAS  
BEFORE  
YOUR TIME.

AH.

THE TRUTH  
IS, THAT  
WAS JUST  
SOMETHING  
THAT  
HAPPENED  
TO THE  
AUTHOR  
WHEN HE  
WAS A KID.

YOU'D  
THINK  
THAT  
WOULD'VE  
BEEN  
TRAUMATIC  
FOR ME  
BUT...

I-IT'S  
OK.



FROM NOW  
ON, WE'LL  
WRITE SPRING  
LIKE THIS...

ANYWAY  
I'VE HAD  
ENOUGH OF  
THIS "THREE  
PERSON DAY"  
SPRING  
BULLSHIT.

# 春 五 人 日

Five  
Person  
Day





# 罍

四 人 日  
Four Person Day



IS  
COMPLETELY  
FORBIDDEN.

# 春

CHANGING  
THE KANJI  
FOR SPRING,

A STORY ABOUT  
A GROUP OF 4  
FRIENDS JUST  
HANGING OUT  
WHEN ALL OF  
A SUDDEN  
THEY SEE AN  
OWL LOOKING  
OVER THEM.



YOU  
KNOW, I'M  
SURE I'VE  
HEARD OF  
SOMETHING  
LIKE THIS  
HAPPENING  
BEFORE...

DID  
MARI-SAN  
MENTION  
SOMETHING  
ABOUT  
OWLS?



UMMM,  
BEFORE  
SHE  
TURNED  
ALL  
WEIRD,

WOULD  
THEY  
BE IN  
DANGER  
TOO?



AND IT  
LOOKS FOR  
GROUPS OF  
4 PEOPLE!?  
THAT'S  
TERRIFYING!  
WHAT ABOUT  
PEOPLE JUST  
TRYING TO  
PLAY A  
GAME OF  
MAHJONG?

PEOPLE  
WENT  
INSANE  
JUST  
FROM  
LOOKING  
AT IT!?



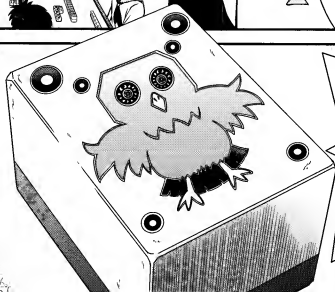
SO THAT'S  
WHY PEOPLE  
TURN  
STRANGE  
IN SPRING!



AS SOON  
AS THEY SAW  
THE OWL,  
THEY ALL  
WENT  
COMPLETELY  
MAD!



CORRECT,  
IF FOUR  
PEOPLE PLAY  
MAHJONG  
TOGETHER...



THEY  
MIGHT  
END UP  
DRAWING  
THIS TILE.

AND ALSO,  
WE NEED  
TO MAKE  
SURE THAT  
EVERY  
PHRASE  
THAT HAS  
"SPRING"  
IN IT IS  
ALSO AN  
ACTIVITY  
DONE BY  
3 PEOPLE!



FROM NOW  
ON WE HAVE  
TO MAKE  
SURE THAT  
EVERY  
ACTIVITY  
DONE IN  
SPRING IS  
DONE BY 3  
PEOPLE!

IT COULD  
JUST BE A  
FOREIGN  
TILE!



NO!  
I SAW  
THE  
OWL  
TOO?!

JUST  
LIKE  
LOOSE  
EDUCATION!



3 PEOPLE  
HAVE TO  
ACHIEVE  
THE EXACT  
SAME  
GOAL...

HAS TO  
BECOME  
"THREE  
PERSON  
FIRST"  
DAY!



FOR  
EXAMPLE,  
THE NAME  
OF THE  
FIRST  
STORM  
OF THE  
SEASON,  
"SPRING'S  
FIRST",



OH,  
BUT  
THEY  
CAN...

SURELY  
THEY CAN'T  
ADD A  
THIRD  
PERSON  
INTO  
THAT!!



WHAT  
ABOUT THE  
SPRING  
SUMO  
WRESTLING  
TOURNAMENT?!



RIGHT,  
RIGHT!

A LOOSE  
EDUCATION  
STORM?  
SO LIKE  
WHAT,  
"A LUKE-  
WARM  
WIND  
BLOWS"?



HEY THEY'VE  
DONE THEIR  
BEST TO  
CLEAN UP  
THE SPORT,  
YOU KNOW!  
DON'T JUST  
THROW  
RUMOURS  
AROUND!



FIXED  
MATCHES  
NEED A  
THIRD  
PERSON,  
RIGHT?



WHAT  
ARE YOU  
TALKING  
ABOUT?



AT LEAST  
THEIR FRAUD  
WAS ONLY  
LIMITED TO  
3 SINGLE  
PEOPLE..



MEMBERS OF  
THE THREE BIG  
UNION PARTIES,  
TRYING TO  
FORCE YOU  
TO JOIN THEIR  
CAUSE BY  
ANY MEANS  
NECESSARY!



IN THE  
SPRING  
WAGE  
OFFENSIVE,  
THE REALLY  
OFFENSIVE  
PART IS...

YOU  
DO,  
HUH?

I JUST  
WANNA  
ENJOY  
MY  
YOUTH!

THE  
SPRING-  
TIME OF  
YOUTH?!  
WHAT  
HAPPENS  
WITH  
THAT?!

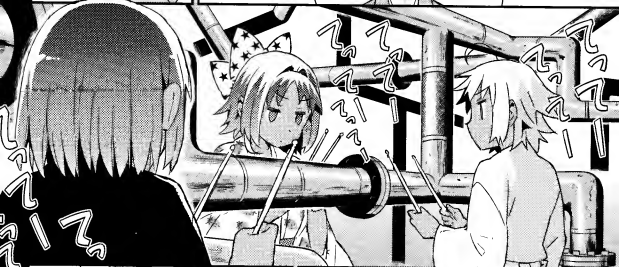
WHAT  
ABOUT  
ADOLESC-  
ENCE?



SO WHAT WE  
NEED IS A  
THREE-MAN  
BLUE-MAN  
GROUP!



ADOLESCENCE  
IS SPELT WITH  
THE KANJI  
FOR "BLUE"  
AND "SPRING",  
RIGHT?



AH,  
BUT OF  
COURSE!

WHAT ABOUT  
"SPRING  
PICTURES"?  
YOU KNOW,  
SHUNGA,  
THOSE OLD PORNO-  
GRAPHIC  
WOODBLOCK  
PRINTS?

WOULD  
MAKE  
YOU  
FEEL  
SO  
YOUNG!

WHO  
KNEW THAT  
PAINTING  
YOUR  
FACE  
BLUE,

I  
FEEL  
LIKE  
A KID  
AGAIN!

THEN  
IT ISN'T  
A REAL  
SHUNGA!



IF A  
SHUNGA  
DOESN'T  
SHOW A  
THREE-  
SOME...



IF YOU  
TAKE IT TO  
BE ABOUT  
3 PEOPLE  
INSTEAD OF  
SPRING, THE  
LYRICS TAKE  
ON A WHOLE  
DIFFERENT  
MEANING!

Some songs clearly come from  
Spring, some clearly come from  
My little flower girl who's taking  
her first few steps.  
Slowly putting on a pair of red sandals  
she wants to climb outside...  
But she can't go out there yet  
because of all the heavy snow.

WHAT ABOUT  
THAT OLD  
NURSERY  
RHYME,  
"SPRING  
PLEASE  
COME!"?

I CAN  
SEE 3  
HUGE  
"SPRING  
FLOW-  
ERS"  
RIGHT  
THERE.



BIG?  
YOU  
CAN  
SAY  
THAT  
AGAIN...



PEOPLE IN  
THE EDO  
PERIOD  
WERE  
REALLY  
BIG ON  
PORN,  
HUH.

IT'S ABOUT  
A RAPIDLY  
AWAKENING  
MONSTER  
THAT NEEDS  
3 PEOPLE  
TO DEFEAT  
IT!



"MII-  
CHAN  
TAKES  
HER  
FIRST  
FEW  
STEPS"

IT'S  
ASKING  
FOR 3  
PEOPLE  
TO  
COME  
QUICK!



"SPRING,  
SPRING,  
PLEASE  
COME  
SOON!"



M-M-  
MAGI-  
CIAN'S  
RED!?

RED  
SANDALS?  
STAND?  
RED  
STAND!?



SLOWLY  
PUTTING ON  
HER RED  
SANDALS  
AND TRYING  
TO STAND...



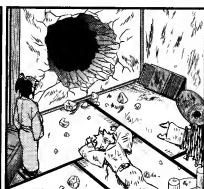
WE  
HAVE  
TO  
STOP  
HER!



WE 3  
HAVE  
BEEN  
CHOSEN!



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Yasu's  
comment

KIGU-CHAN HAS A CAREFREE, OPTIMISTIC PERSONALITY, LIKE AN OLD ANIME CHARACTER FROM THE 90S. YOU DON'T REALLY SEE CHARACTERS LIKE HER ANYMORE THESE DAYS, HAPPY-GO-LUCKY TYPES WITH MASSIVE AHOGES AND NEON-COLOURED HAIR. SHE'S A REALLY EXPRESSIVE AND EMOTIONAL CHARACTER, THERE'S BEEN PANELS WHERE I'VE HAD TO PUT IN EVERYTHING I'VE GOT TO TRY AND CAPTURE THIS SIDE OF HER PROPERLY.

SHE'S USUALLY BRIGHT AND CHEERFUL, BUT SOMETIMES SHE HAS A DIFFERENT, DARKER SIDE TO HER. THOUGH NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, THIS SCHEMING, BLACK-HEARTED NATURE OF HERS SLOWLY FADED AWAY.



# TRANSLATOR'S NOTES

## I HATE THE KANJI FOR SPRING

TITLE (春の字嫌い - SHUN NO JI KIRAI) IS A REFERENCE TO RAKUGO STORY しの字嫌い (SHI NO JI GIRAI - I HATE THE KANJI FOR DEATH).

THE STORY REVOLVES AROUND A QUICK-WITTED AND ACERBIC SERVANT (GONSUKE) AND THE HEAD OF THE HOUSE THAT HE SERVES.

AFTER A SMALL QUIBBLE WITH EACH OTHER, THE HEAD DEVISES A PLAN TO KNOCK HIS SERVANT DOWN A PEG, AND COMES UP WITH A WORD GAME INVOLVING THE KANJI FOR DEATH, SHI (し OR 死). THEY EACH HAD TO GUESS WHETHER THE OTHER WAS GOING TO SAY A WORD THAT STARTED WITH SHI, OR しじる (SHIKUJIRU - TO FAIL/BLUNDER).

IF GONSUKE WINS, HE GETS A BONUS TO HIS SALARY, IF THE HEAD WINS, HE DOESN'T HAVE TO PAY GONSUKE FOR A YEAR. THE HEAD GOES FIRST AND SAYS A WORD BEGINNING WITH SHI, HOWEVER THINGS DON'T GO QUITE TO PLAN...

CHAPTER FIRST PUBLISHED 9TH APRIL 2013.

### TITLE PAGE:

THIS IS A REFERENCE TO JAPANESE FOLKLORE HERO KINTARO (GOLDEN BOY). A CHILD WITH SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH RAISED IN THE MOUNTAINS, HE IS OFTEN PICTURED WEARING A HARAGAKE JAPANESE APRON, CARRYING AN AXE AND RIDING A TAME BEAR. THE KANJI ON MARIU'S APRON SAYS "GOLD".

### PAGE 1:

"IT'S BECAUSE OF THIS, THE KANJI FOR SPRING."

KANJI (漢字) IS THE NAME OF THE CHINESE CHARACTERS USED IN THE JAPANESE LANGUAGE. THERE ARE 2,136 KANJI IN COMMON USE IN JAPAN, ALONG WITH ANOTHER 1,000 OR SO THAT ARE RARER, OR WHICH ARE USED ONLY IN NAMES.

KANJI ARE MADE UP OF SMALLER, BUILDING BLOCK-LIKE PARTS, KNOWN AS "RADICALS", OF WHICH THERE ARE 214. WHAT YOU SEE IN THIS CHAPTER IS THE KANJI FOR SPRING (春 - HARU) BEING BROKEN DOWN INTO THE COMPONENTS, 三 (SAN) - "THREE", 人 (HIITO) - "PERSON/HUMAN" AND 日 (HI) - "DAY/SUN".

THE KANJI THAT APPEAR LATER IN THIS CHAPTER, THE ONES MODIFIED WITH DIFFERENT NUMBERS, ARE NOT REAL KANJI.

### PAGE 3:

"IF YOU'RE HIKING UP A MOUNTAIN TO HAVE A PICNIC, 3 PEOPLE IS PERFECT."

CHARACTERS HERE ARE FROM ENCOURAGEMENT OF CLIMB, A MANGA BY SHIRO.

"WHEN IT COMES TO SONGS ABOUT SPRING, THOSE FROM GROUPS WITH 3 MEMBERS ARE THE BEST."

UPPER RIGHT GROUP IS CANDIES, FAMOUS FOR THEIR SONG HARU ICHIBAN (SPRING'S FIRST BREEZE) RELEASED IN 1976. LOWER LEFT GROUP IS HYSTERIC BLUE, FAMOUS FOR THEIR SONG HARU-SPRING~ RELEASED IN 1999.

### PAGE 4:

"B-BACK WHEN I WAS A KID, THERE WAS A SONG ABOUT HOW SPRING MEANT A DAY JUST FOR 3 PEOPLE... IT CAUSED ME TO BE ABANDONED BY MY BEST FRIENDS!"

REFERENCE TO SONG "HARU RA! RA! RA!" BY ISHINO MAKO RELEASED IN 1980. THE LYRICS FOR THE SONG REFERENCE THE FACT THAT YOU CAN BREAK DOWN THE KANJI FOR SPRING INTO "3 PERSON DAY".

### PAGE 5:

"THE TRUTH IS, THAT WAS JUST SOMETHING THAT HAPPENED TO THE AUTHOR WHEN HE WAS A KID."

KUMETA WAS BORN IN 1967, HARU RA! RA! RA! AS MENTIONED ABOVE WAS RELEASED IN 1980.

### PAGE 6:

"IT'S TEARING ITSELF APART BEFORE MY EYES!"

KUKURU IS REFERENCING "GESTALTZERFALL", A PHENOMENON IN WHICH PROLONGED VIEWING OF A SHAPE (AND PARTICULARLY KANJI) CAUSE IT TO "COME APART" IN YOUR MIND, LOSING ALL MEANING UNTIL IT EFFECTIVELY BECOMES JUST A WEIRD SHAPE.

IT'S VERY SIMILAR TO "SEMANTIC SATIATION", IN WHICH SAYING THE SAME WORD OVER AND OVER AND OVER AND OVER AND OVER AND OVER AND OVER AND OVER AND OVER AND OVER AND OVER AND OVER AND OVER AGAIN CAUSES IT TO LOSE MEANING TO THE PERSON SAYING IT UNTIL IT BECOMES JUST AN ODD, REPEATED SOUND.



**PAGE 7:**  
"NO NO NO! I'VE HEARD ABOUT THIS! IF I LOOK AT THAT OWL I'LL DIE!"  
REFERENCE TO MANGA "JAGAN WA GACHIRIN NI TOBU" (THE WICKED EYE FLIES TO THE NEW MOON), BY FUJITA KAZUHIRO. IN THE MANGA, GODS SEND AN OWL NAMED MINERVA TO EARTH, AND EVERYONE THAT SEES IT OR ENTERS ITS GAZE IS KILLED. THIS IS POTENTIALLY ALSO A REFERENCE TO VARIOUS BITS OF FOLKLORE SURROUNDING OWLS. ANCIENT ROMANS SAW THEM AS HARBINGERS OF DEATH, PARTICULARLY IF THEY HOOTED ON YOUR ROOF OR DROPPED A FEATHER NEAR YOU WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING.

**PAGE 8:**  
"SO THAT'S WHY PEOPLE TURN STRANGE IN SPRING!"  
KIGU IS REFERENCING "GOGATSU-BYOU", OR MAY SICKNESS. IT'S BEEN REFERENCED IN JOSHIRAKU BEFORE. IT'S A WAVE OF SICKNESS AND MALAISE THAT SWEEPS JAPAN, DUE TO CHANGING LIGHT LEVELS AND VASTLY VARYING TEMPERATURES AND A WHOLE MYRIAD OF OTHER CAUSES THAT OCCUR DURING THE SEASON CHANGE FROM WINTER TO SPRING.

**"CORRECT, IF FOUR PEOPLE PLAY MAHJONG TOGETHER..."**  
CHARACTERS IN THIS PANEL:  
SHIGERU AKAGI FROM "AKAGI: THE GENIUS WHO DESCENDED INTO DARKNESS", A MANGA BY FUKUMOTO NOBUYUKI.  
SAKI MIYANAGA FROM "SAKI", A MANGA BY KOBAYASHI RITSU.  
ASADA TETSUYA FROM "LEGENDARY GAMBLER TETSUYA", BY FUMEI SAI AND YASUSHI HOSHINO.  
ALL OF THESE MANGA FEATURE MAHJONG PROMINENTLY.

**PAGE 9:**  
"NO! I SAW THE OWL TOO?!" "IT COULD JUST BE A FOREIGN TILE!"  
TRADITIONALLY IN MAHJONG, THE FIRST TILE OF THE BAMBOO SUIT (HISOU) PORTRAYS A BIRD, TYPICALLY A PEAFOWL OR A REPRESENTATION OF THE JAPANESE FIREBIRD GODDESS CALLED "HOOU". HOWEVER AS MAHJONG SPREAD AROUND THE WORLD, OTHER IMAGES HAVE APPEARED ON THIS TILE, INCLUDING CRANES, PANDAS, ORCHIDS AND OF COURSE, OWLS.

**"3 PEOPLE HAVE TO ACHIEVE THE EXACT SAME GOAL.... IT'S JUST LIKE LOOSE EDUCATION!"**  
SEE CHAPTER 25 FOR MORE DETAILS ABOUT LOOSE EDUCATION.

**"WHAT ABOUT SPRING SUMO WRESTLING TOURNAMENTS!? SURELY THEY CAN'T ADD A THIRD PERSON INTO THOSE!"**  
REFERENCE TO HARU BASHO, A HUGE SUMO WRESTLING TOURNAMENT, HELD IN MARCH.

**"FIXED MATCHES NEED A THIRD PERSON, RIGHT?"**  
REFERENCE TO A HUGE SUMO MATCH FIXING SCANDAL THAT EMERGED IN 2011.

**PAGE 10:**  
"IN THE SPRING WAGE OFFENSIVE, THE REALLY OFFENSIVE PART IS... FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE THREE BIG UNION PARTIES, TRYING TO FORCE YOU TO JOIN THEIR CAUSE BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY!"

REFERENCE TO 春闘 (SHUNTOU - SPRING OFFENSIVE), IN WHICH EMPLOYEES OF A COMPANY WILL NEGOTIATE THEIR WAGES AND WORKING CONDITIONS WITH THEIR EMPLOYERS. THINGS CAN GET HEATED UNTIL A SATISFACTORY RESULT HAS BEEN NEGOTIATED. USUALLY THE BIGGEST COMPANIES IN JAPAN WILL SET THE BAR FOR EMPLOYEE NEGOTIATIONS, IF A COMPANY SUCH AS MITSUBISHI AGREES A 3% PAY RISE, THEN MOST OTHER COMPANIES WILL FOLLOW SUIT WITH A SIMILAR OR EQUAL DEAL. OBVIOUSLY THIS WHOLE PROCESS IS OVERSEEN AND PARTICIPATED IN BY WORKER UNIONS, WHICH TEND TO SUPPORT ONE OF THE MAIN THREE LEFT-WING POLITICAL PARTIES IN JAPAN, THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY, THE COMMUNIST PARTY OR THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY. OFTEN MEMBERS OF DIFFERENT PARTIES WILL TRY AND GET YOU TO JOIN THEIR OWN PARTY IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN IT, AND IT'S NOT UNCOMMON FOR PEOPLE YOU HAVEN'T HEARD FROM IN YEARS CONTACTING YOU OUT OF THE BLUE FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF TRYING TO GET YOU TO JOIN EITHER THEIR UNION OR POLITICAL PARTY. THERE HAVE BEEN OCCASIONS WHERE PARTY MEMBERS WOULD SIGN UP PEOPLE TO JOIN WITHOUT THEIR PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OR SIGNING THEM UP WITHOUT THEIR CONSENT.



**WHAT ABOUT ADOLESCENCE? THE SPRINGTIME OF YOUTH?! WHAT HAPPENS THERE?!"**  
青春 (SEISHUN) MEANS "THE SPRINGTIME OF YOUTH" (ADOLESCENCE) BUT LITERALLY MEANS "BLUE SPRING", AS IT IS SPELT WITH THE KANJI FOR BLUE (青 - AO) AND SPRING (春).

**"SO WHAT WE NEED IS A THREE-MAN BLUE-MAN GROUP!"**

THE BLUE MAN GROUP IS A PERFORMANCE ART COMPANY, FORMED IN 1991. THE PERFORMERS PAINT THEIR FACES BLUE, AND PERFORM MUSICAL AND ACROBATIC STUNTS.

**"WHAT ABOUT "SPRING PICTURES"? YOU KNOW, SHUNGA, THOSE OLD PORNOGRAPHIC WOODBLOCK PRINTS?"**

SHUNGA IS THE NAME GIVEN TO WOODBLOCK PRINTED PORNOGRAPHY, DUE TO "SPRING" BEING A COMMON EUPHEMISM FOR SEX IN THE EDO PERIOD. ALMOST ALL OF THE FAMOUS WOODBLOCK ARTISTS OF THE DAY WORKED ON SHUNGA AT SOME POINT IN THEIR CAREER. THE PERSONS DEPICTED WERE USUALLY ALWAYS FULLY CLOTHED, NOT OUT OF ANY MEASURE OF CENSORSHIP OR DECENCY (AS NUILITY WAS NOT INHERENTLY SEXUAL IN EDO PERIOD JAPAN), BUT TO DISTINGUISH TO THE VIEWER THAT THE PEOPLE IN THE SHUNGA WERE FOREIGNERS, OR RICH ETC.

**PAGE 11:**

**"PEOPLE IN THE EDO PERIOD WAS CERTAINLY BIG ON PORN, HUH."**

SHUNGA WERE VERY POPULAR INDEED IN EDO PERIOD JAPAN, THEY WERE OFTEN SEEN AS GOOD LUCK CHARMS, AS WELL AS PRESENTS AND HOUSEHOLD DECORATIONS ETC.,

SECONDLY, THE DEPICTION OF GENITALS IN SHUNGA WAS ALSO TYPICALLY GREATLY EXAGGERATED, A TRAIT THAT CONFUSED EARLY WESTERN TRAVELLERS TO JAPAN.

**"I CAN SEE 3 HUGE "SPRING FLOWERS" RIGHT THERE."**

A KIND OF UNTRANSLATABLE WORDPLAY AND KANJI PUN, THIS TIME ON THE WORD "春菊" (SHUNGIKU), WHICH IS THE WORD FOR "GARLAND CHRYSANTHEMUM", BUT TRANSLATES DIRECTLY TO "SPRING CHRYSANTHEMUM". THE JOKE COMES FROM THE KANJI FOR CHRYSANTHEMUM (菊 - KIKU) BEING USED IN VARIOUS SLANG TERMS FOR "ANUS" ON THE INTERNET, DUE TO ITS VISUAL SIMILARITY TO ONE.

**"AND WHAT ABOUT THAT OLD NURSERY RHYME, "SPRING PLEASE COME!?"**

**IF YOU TAKE IT TO BE ABOUT 3 PEOPLE INSTEAD OF SPRING, THE LYRICS TAKE ON A WHOLE DIFFERENT MEANING!"**

REFERENCE TO JAPANESE NURSERY RHYME, 春よ来い - HARU YO, KOI, WRITTEN BY SOUMASHOYOFUJI, WHOSE LYRICS GO:

"SPRING, SPRING, PLEASE COME SOON!"

SPRING, SPRING, PLEASE COME SOON.

MY LITTLE MII-CHAN<sup>1</sup> JUST STARTS TAKING HER FIRST FEW STEPS,

SLOWLY<sup>2</sup> PUTTING ON A PAIR OF RED SANDALS SHE WANTS TO STAND OUTSIDE,

BUT SHE CAN'T GO OUT THERE JUST YET BECAUSE OF ALL THE HEAVY SNOW."

**"RED SANDALS? STAND? RED STAND!?" "M-M-MAGICIAN'S RED!?"**

REFERENCE TO "JOJO'S BIZARRE ADVENTURE", A MANGA SERIES BY HIROHIKO ARAKI.

MAGICIAN'S RED IS A STAND USED BY CHARACTER MUHAMMAD AVDOOL, WHICH APPEARS AS A HUMANOID FIGURE WITH A BIRD-LIKE HEAD (EXPLAINING THE FIRST PANEL OF THE NEXT PAGE) AND GRANTS THE USER THE ABILITY TO CONTROL FIRE. ARAKI AND KUMETA ARE FANS OF EACH OTHERS' WORK, AND HAVE BOTH BEEN SUBJECT TO THE SAME JOKE OF HAVING AN OUTWARD APPEARANCE THAT HASN'T CHANGED IN 3 DECADES.

**PAGE 12:**

**100 PERSON DAY - YURI**

YURI IS A SUBGENRE OF MANGA AND ANIME THAT FOCUSES ON ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN GIRLS.

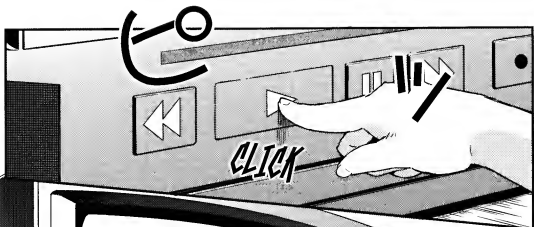


<sup>1</sup>: MII-CHAN WAS BASED ON SOUMASHOYOFUJI'S ELDEST DAUGHTER, FUMIKO.

<sup>2</sup>: THE WORD USED HERE IS "じよろろ" WHICH MEANS SLOWLY AND FALTERINGLY, AND IS PRONOUNCED "JOJO".

# じょしらく JOSHIRAKU

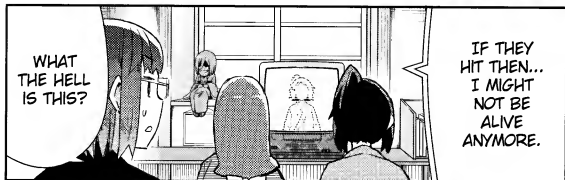






MAYBE  
THE  
MISSILES  
HIT,

OR  
MAYBE  
THEY  
DIDN'T.



WHAT  
THE HELL  
IS THIS?

IF THEY  
HIT THEN...  
I MIGHT  
NOT BE  
ALIVE  
ANYMORE.



AND  
ALSO...

I KNOW  
IT WAS  
UNLIKELY  
BUT IT  
WAS JUST  
IN CASE.



WHAT IF  
I HAD  
DIED?!  
NOBODY  
WOULD'VE  
KNOWN  
WHAT I  
WANTED  
TO SAY!!



I JUST  
THOUGHT I  
SHOULD MAKE  
SOMETHING  
LIKE THIS,  
YOU KNOW,  
FOR PEACE  
OF MIND.

JUST HOW  
STUPID  
ARE YOU?  
NOTHING  
WAS EVER  
GONNA  
HAPPEN...



WELL  
THEY DO  
SAY THAT  
DEAD MEN  
TELL NO  
TALES.

THAT'S  
NOT  
ALL...

HAS  
MADE  
INNOCENT  
PEOPLE  
INTO  
CRIMI-  
NALS!

RIGHT!  
THERE HAVE  
BEEN TIMES  
WHEN THE  
DEAD BEING  
UNABLE TO  
SPEAK UP  
AGAINST  
SLANDER,

TO BE A  
LITTLE...  
SHOCKING.

IF YOU  
ENTER  
A STRANGE,  
UNKNOWN  
RELIGION AND  
DIE, SINCE YOU  
CAN'T SPEAK  
OUT AGAINST IT,  
YOU MIGHT FIND  
THE FUNERAL  
THEY THROW  
FOR YOU,

TO  
RECORD  
HOW YOU'D  
LIKE YOUR  
LIFE TO  
END.

ANYWAY,  
I THINK IT'S  
IMPORTANT,

I DON'T  
THINK  
THAT'D  
EVER  
HAPPEN.

LIKE, THEY'D  
FORCE YOU  
INTO HAVING A  
SKY BURIAL OR  
SOMETHING!?  
THAT'S  
TERRIFYING!



THAT'S  
WHY  
"ENDING  
NOTES"  
ARE SO  
POPULAR  
THESE  
DAYS.

### Ending Note

ENDING NOTE 000000 000000

ENDING NOTE 000000 000000

すっ

Ending Note

ENDING NOTE 000000 000000

IT'S NOT ABOUT  
HOW YOU WANT  
THINGS TO BE  
AFTER YOU DIE.  
IT'S MORE OF A  
DOCUMENT ON HOW  
YOU FEEL ABOUT  
THE END AS IT  
APPROACHES, AND  
HOW YOU WANT THE  
END OF YOUR LIFE  
TO BE HANDLED.

"ENDING  
NOTE"?  
WHAT'S  
THAT?  
LIKE A LAST  
WILL OR  
TESTAMENT  
OR SOME-  
THING?

SO HOW  
DO YOU  
WANT YOUR  
DEATH  
TO BE,  
EVERYONE?

FORWARD  
PLANNING,  
I GUESS  
YOU  
COULD  
CALL IT.

THAT'S KIND  
OF A CRUDE  
WAY OF  
PUTTING IT,  
BUT YES, I  
SUPPOSE  
SO.

SO IT'S  
KINDA LIKE  
WRITING  
ABOUT HOW  
YOU WANT  
TO DIE?

THAT IS  
THE IDEAL  
WAY TO  
GO, ISN'T  
IT?

I WANT TO DIE  
PEACEFULLY IN MY  
SLEEP, AT HOME,  
SURROUNDED BY  
LOTS AND LOTS OF  
CHILDREN AND  
GRANDCHILDREN.

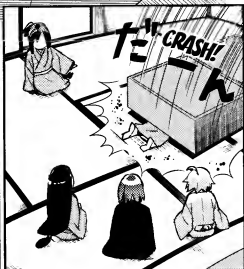
HHHHH,  
LET'S  
SEE...

ん

I'D LIKE  
TO GO OUT  
MAKING  
MYSELF A  
SACRIFICE  
TO SAVE  
SOMEONE  
ELSE.

WATCH  
OUT!!

WHILE  
THAT  
SOUNDS  
NICE,  
I THINK  
FOR ME...





DEATH  
CAN BE SO  
SUDDEN.

WELL  
YOU NEVER  
KNOW HOW  
MUCH TIME  
YOU HAVE  
LEFT.

AAANYWAY,  
AREN'T WE ALL  
STILL A LITTLE  
TOO YOUNG TO  
BE THINKING  
ABOUT WHAT  
TO PUT IN AN  
ENDING NOTE?



IS IT  
YOURS,  
KIGU-  
CHAN?

THIS  
ISN'T  
MINE.



NOPE.

NOT MINE  
EITHER.

IT'S NOT  
MINE.



EH?

IS THAT  
WHY YOU  
BROUGHT  
THAT IN  
TO SHOW  
EVERYONE?



THEY'RE  
INTO ALL  
THE LATEST  
FADS.

YEAH,  
THAT  
MAKES  
SENSE.

OWWWW...

IT COULD  
BE THE  
MASTER'S.

AH!

BUT  
IT WAS  
RIGHT HERE  
IN THE  
DRESSING  
ROOM.



LEMMIE  
SEE!  
LEMMIE  
SEE!

STOP  
IT!!



LET'S  
TAKE A  
LOOK...

WHAT  
DOES  
IT SAY  
INSIDE?



AHHHHH!!

WHAT  
DOES  
IT SAY?

AHHH!  
I SEE...



HAS TO  
CARRY  
OUT  
WHATEVER  
LAST  
WISHES  
ARE  
WRITTEN  
INSIDE!!


ANYONE  
THAT  
LOOKS AT  
WHAT AN  
ENDING  
NOTE  
SAYS...

THAT'S  
LIKE THE  
WHOLE  
POINT OF  
THE NOTE  
IN THE  
FIRST  
PLACE!

WASN'T  
THAT  
OBVIOUS  
!?!?

R-R-R  
REALLY  
!?!?

EH?



THEN IT MEANS  
THAT THE GOD  
OF DEATH,  
**SHINIGAMI**,  
WILL COME AND  
DO WHATEVER  
HE WANTS!

WELL SINCE  
IT'S KIND  
OF LIKE A  
PRE-EMPTIVE  
DEATH NOTE  
...

WHAT IF  
WE JUST  
IGNORE  
IT?

WELL,  
SINCE THIS  
IS OUR  
MASTER'S  
ENDING  
NOTE...

WHAT  
DO WE  
DO!?

ISN'T IT  
MORE LIKE  
A FUTURE  
DIARY IN  
REVERSE?!

A PRE-  
EMPTIVE  
DEATH  
NOTE?!

WE'LL JUST  
HAVE TO TRY  
AND FOLLOW  
IT AS BEST  
WE CAN!

THE DEATH  
METHOD  
WRITTEN  
IN HERE...

WHAT THE  
HELL ARE  
YOU EVEN  
TALKING  
ABOUT,  
GAN?

WE  
NEED  
TO GET  
A BOAT.

# STEP 1

Get a Boat.

FIRST  
OFF,

OH MY GOD,  
THIS IS  
SUCH A  
PAIN IN  
THE ASS!

MAYBE  
THEY WANT  
THEIR  
ASHES  
SCATTERING  
INTO THE  
OCEAN.

WHAT A  
SHOW-  
OFF  
SEND-OFF.

TO USE  
INSTEAD  
OF A  
COFFIN,  
MAYBE?

WHY A  
BOAT?

AHH!  
THAT'S  
AMAZING,  
GAN-  
CHAN!

I CALLED IN  
A FAVOUR  
FROM AN  
OLD FRIEND,  
I GOT US  
A BOAT.

WE  
DON'T  
WANT  
SHINIGAMI  
TO  
COME  
HERE!

WE HAVE  
TO DO  
THIS  
PROPER-  
LY!

I  
GOT  
ONE!

MAYBE SO  
THEY DON'T  
GET LOST  
WANDERING  
THE STREETS  
OF THE  
LAND OF  
THE DEAD?

A  
MAP?  
BUT WHY?

NEXT  
IT SAYS  
WE HAVE  
TO GET  
A MAP.

WELL, I  
GUESS IF  
WE HAVE  
TO DO  
THINGS  
PROPERLY  
...

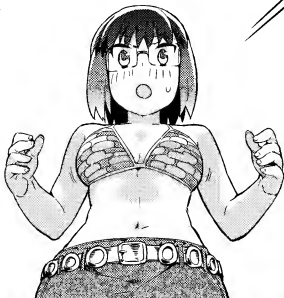
FOR THE  
MOURNING  
DRESS  
MAYBE?

THERE'S  
SOME  
CLOTHING  
PATTERNS  
IN HERE,  
TOO.

TO GO  
TO THE  
FUNERAL?

NOW IT  
SAYS WE  
ALL HAVE  
TO GET UP  
AND LEAVE.

TA-DA!



WERE THEY  
ALREADY  
HALF-DEAD  
WHEN THEY  
WROTE THIS  
OR SOME-  
THING?

WHERE?  
THE RIVER  
STYX?

NOW WE  
HAVE TO  
SET OFF  
ON A  
VOYAGE.

WHAT  
NEXT?

I LOOK  
LIKE A  
FARMER!

TH-THIS IS  
WAY TOO  
REVEALING  
TO BE A  
MOURNING  
DRESS!

OOHH!  
I  
SEE!!

OOKI  
OOKI

HMM,  
HMM!

I DIDN'T  
EXPECT  
THAT TO  
HAPPEN!

AHH, THIS  
IS GETTING  
REALLY  
EXCITING!

LET'S  
SEE  
....

NOW  
WHAT  
DO WE  
DO?

And they all  
lived happily  
ever after.

The End

Finally  
they  
had the  
treasure,

UUUUHHH...

AHH,  
WHAT A  
GREAT  
ENDING!

THIS IS  
JUST THE  
ENDING  
NOTE TO  
ANOTHER  
MANGA!

WAIT A  
MINUTE!

YEP.  
THEY  
EXIST  
ALRIGHT.

THERE  
ARE REALLY  
AUTHORS OUT  
THERE WHO  
DECIDE HOW  
THEIR MANGA  
IS GOING TO  
END WHILE  
IT'S STILL  
GOING!?

EHHH?

IT'S  
NOT OUR  
MASTER'S  
ENDING  
NOTE AT  
ALL.

THIS IS  
ALL JUST  
REFERENCE  
NOTES ON  
WHAT TO DO  
FOR THAT  
MANGA'S  
ENDING!!

THERE'S TOO  
MANY GREAT  
WORKS OUT  
THERE THAT  
FINISHED  
WITHOUT A  
PROPER  
ENDING  
BECAUSE  
THE AUTHOR  
DIED.

IF AN  
AUTHOR  
DOESN'T  
WRITE AN  
ENDING NOTE,  
IT CAN  
BE A HUGE  
PROBLEM.

LIKE  
GOLGO 13,  
RIGHT?

SO THEY MAKE  
AN ENDING  
NOTE AT THE  
VERY START  
SO THEY KNOW  
WHERE THE  
PLOT'S GOING  
TO GO.

WHEN A  
MANGAKA  
STARTS A  
STORY, THEY  
MIGHT HAVE  
NO IDEA HOW  
LONG IT'S  
GONNA GO  
ON FOR...

A  
BEGIN-  
NING-  
ENDING  
NOTE!

IN  
OTHER  
WORDS...

SOMETHING  
THAT SAYS  
HOW EVERY-  
THING IS GONNA  
GO FROM THE  
VERY START.  
HMM...

IF NOT  
YOU COULD  
END UP  
WITH JUST  
ANOTHER  
UNFINISHED  
MASTER-  
PIECE!

YOU  
HAVE TO  
PLAN HOW  
EVERYTHING  
IS GOING TO  
END RIGHT  
FROM THE  
START!

WHY  
THERE  
?!

EVERY  
MANGA'S  
ENDING  
SHOULD BE  
SEALED  
DEEP DEEP  
DOWN IN  
THE  
CELLARS  
OF THE  
VATICAN!

A  
BEGINNING-  
ENDING NOTE  
FORETELLS  
HOW A MANGA  
WILL END,  
RIGHT FROM  
THE VERY  
START!

JUST LIKE  
HOW THE  
DEAD SEA  
SCROLLS  
FORETELL THE  
DESTRUCTION  
OF ALL  
MANKIND...

IS  
SEALED  
SAFELY  
AWAY,  
IN THE  
CELLARS  
OF THE  
VATICAN!



RIGHT  
NOW,  
EVERY  
MANGA'S  
ENDING,

DO  
BEGIN-  
NING-  
ENDING  
NOTES  
REALLY  
EXIST?!

OF  
COURSE,  
EVERY-  
ONE  
MAKES  
THEM  
THESE  
DAYS!

✱ Kumeta's Personal Delusion.

IT ALSO HELPS  
TO STOP THE  
AUTHOR FROM  
BECOMING TOO  
SELF-INDULGENT  
AND WRITING  
STUPID OVER THE  
TOP PLOT TWISTS  
TRYING TO KEEP  
THE READERS ON  
THEIR TOES!

SOMETHING  
BAD  
HAPPENING  
TO THE  
AUTHOR ISN'T  
THE ONLY  
REASON  
ENDINGS  
HAVE TO BE  
SEALED  
AWAY.

What  
the-?  
This can  
never be  
released  
to the  
world!

THERE'S  
PROBABLY  
SOME  
ENDINGS  
SO BAD  
THERE,  
THAT IF THE  
POPE SAW  
THEM, HE'D  
FAINT!

I'M  
HERE TO  
DESTROY  
IT!

THAT  
ENDING  
NOTE...

GIVE  
THAT  
NOTE  
TO ME.

WHO  
ARE  
YOU?

AND WE HAVE  
SUCCEEDED  
IN CREATING  
AN ARMY OF  
CLONES OF  
THE AUTHOR...

WE HAVE  
BEEN WORKING  
TIRELESSLY  
FOR YEARS  
USING IPS CELL  
TECHNOLOGY.

WORRY NOT,  
EVEN IF THE  
AUTHOR DIES,  
THE MANGA  
SHALL  
CONTINUE.

B-BUT  
WHAT WILL  
YOU DO IF  
SOMETHING  
HAPPENS  
TO THE  
AUTHOR?

WITH THEM,  
WE CAN  
MAKE THE  
MANGA  
CONTINUE  
FOREVER!







Yasu's  
comment

THIS MYSTERIOUS CHARACTER WAS MADE DUE TO A SMALL COMMUNICATION ERROR WE HAD WITH KUMETA-SENSEI. I NEVER THOUGHT SHE'D MAKE IT ALL THE WAY TO THE ANIME!

IT WAS BACK IN THE EARLY DAYS, AND THE EDITOR AND I HAD ONLY REALIZED OUR MISTAKE THE DAY BEFORE THE MANUSCRIPT HAD TO BE HANDED IN, I REMEMBER THE COLOUR JUST DRAINED FROM OUR FACES.

LOOKING BACK ON IT THOUGH, I THINK IT WAS A HAPPY MISTAKE.



# TRANSLATOR'S NOTES

## INTO THE FOLDER

THE TITLE (文書入れ - BUNSHO IRE) IS A REFERENCE TO RAKUGO STORY 紙入れ (KAMI IRE - WALLET). THE STORY REVOLVES AROUND A VERY TIMID SHOP OWNER, SHINKICHI, WHO RECEIVES A LETTER ONE NIGHT FROM THE WIFE OF A LOCAL LORD, INVITING HIM TO VISIT HER AS HER HUSBAND HAS GONE AWAY ON A TRIP, AND SHE IS FEELING LONELY. TERRIFIED AT THE THOUGHT, HE PUTS THE LETTER IN HIS WALLET, AND VISITS HER OUT OF NOT WANTING TO BE PERCEIVED AS DISRESPECTING HER. THE WOMAN GETS VERY DRUNK AND SNUGGLES UP TO HIM, BUT THEY ARE INTERRUPTED BY A LOUD KNOCKING AT THE DOOR, THE HUSBAND HAS RETURNED. SHINKICHI MANAGES TO ESCAPE OUT THE BACK ENTRANCE AND RUNS BACK HOME. AFTER A WHILE HE REALIZES THAT HE LEFT HIS WALLET, A GIFT FROM THE LORD, AND THE INCRIMINATING LETTER BACK AT THE LORD'S HOME. SHINKICHI PANICS AND RACKS HIS BRAIN TRYING TO FIND THE BEST PLAN, AFTER COMING UP WITH NOTHING, HOWEVER, HE DECIDES TO BITE THE BULLET AND VISIT THE LORD... CHAPTER FIRST PUBLISHED 9TH MAY 2013.

### TITLE PAGE:

THE FONT USED FOR "JOSHIRAKU", AND KIOU'S POSE IS A REFERENCE TO ONE PIECE.

### PAGE 2:

"MAYBE THE MISSILES HIT, OR MAYBE THEY DIDN'T."

REFERRING TO NORTH KOREAN NUCLEAR TESTING AND THE CONTINUED TENSION FROM THE REGION.

### PANEL 2:

THE DOLL IS OF MIKASA ACKERMAN, FROM "ATTACK ON TITAN".

### PAGE 3:

"DEAD PEOPLE BEING UNABLE TO SPEAK UP AGAINST SLANDER HAS MADE INNOCENT PEOPLE INTO CRIMINALS!"

THIS SORT OF THING HAPPENS FREQUENTLY, BUT THE ONE THAT WAS IN THE JAPANESE MEDIA WHEN THIS CHAPTER WAS WRITTEN IS AN INCIDENT IN WHICH A MAN WAS ACCUSED OF STEALING BY A WOMAN IN A CONVENIENCE STORE, AND WHO DIED WHILST BEING APPREHENDED BY THE POLICE AND THE STOREKEEPER.

AFTERWARDS IT WAS DISCOVERED THAT THE MAN WAS NOT STEALING AT ALL, AND THE POLICE HAD TO PAY HIS FAMILY REPARATIONS. THE WOMAN WHO ACCUSED HIM OF STEALING RAN AWAY AND HER IDENTITY IS STILL UNKNOWN.

"THEY FORCE YOU INTO HAVING A SKY BURIAL!?"

A SKY BURIAL IS A TYPE OF FUNERAL PRACTISED BY TIBETAN BUDDHISTS.

THE PROCESS INVOLVES LEAVING DEAD BODIES EXPOSED TO THE ELEMENTS ON A MOUNTAINTOP, SO THAT BIRDS SUCH AS VULTURES CAN EAT THE MEAT, AND THE BONES AND OTHER LEFTOVERS CAN ROT AWAY AND RETURN TO THE SOIL.

TIBETAN BUDDHISTS BELIEVE THAT ONCE A PERSON IS DEAD, THE BODY IS AN EMPTY VESSEL WITH NO MEANING, AND SO INSTEAD OF "WASTING IT" BY BURIAL OR CREMATION, THE BODY IS RETURNED TO NATURE.

### PAGE 4:

"THAT'S WHY ENDING NOTES ARE SO POPULAR THESE DAYS."

ENDING NOTES ARE A REAL THING IN JAPAN, AS WELL AS KOREA, AND ARE AS TETORA DESCRIBES, A SORT OF DIARY AND DIRECTIVE ON HOW YOUR DEATH SHOULD BE HANDLED. THE 2011 FILM, "DEATH OF A JAPANESE SALESMAN" IS AN EXAMPLE OF THIS.

### PAGE 7:

"WELL, SINCE IT'S KIND OF LIKE A PRE-EMPTIVE DEATH NOTE..."

"DEATH NOTE" IS A SERIES WRITTEN BY OHBA TSUGUMI. THE TITULAR DEATH NOTE IS A NOTEBOOK IN WHICH IF YOU WRITE A PERSON'S NAME, THEY WILL DIE. YOU CAN ALSO STIPULATE THE DETAILS OF HOW YOU WANT THEM TO DIE.

"ISN'T IT MORE LIKE A FUTURE DIARY IN REVERSE?!"

"FUTURE DIARY" OR "MIRAI NIKKI" IS A SERIES WRITTEN BY ESUNO SAKAE.

THE TITULAR FUTURE DIARY IS A DIARY THAT CONTAINS ENTRIES FROM THE FUTURE, UP TO AND INCLUDING THE DETAILS OF HOW THE DIARY HOLDER WILL DIE.



**PAGE 9:**  
"TH-THIS IS WAY TOO REVEALING TO BE A MOURNING DRESS!" "I LOOK LIKE A FARMER!"  
REFERENCE TO ONE PIECE CHARACTERS, NAMI AND LUFFY.

"FINALLY THEY HAD THE TREASURE, AND THEY ALL LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER. THE END."  
"ONE PIECE" IS A MANGA BY ODA EIICHIRO, WHICH HAS BEEN IN SERIALIZATION SINCE 1997.  
IT CENTRES AROUND A GROUP OF CHARACTERS SEARCHING FOR THE 'ONE PIECE', WHICH IS THE WORLD'S ULTIMATE TREASURE. NONE OF THE MAIN CHARACTERS ACTUALLY KNOW WHAT THIS TREASURE IS YET, HOWEVER.

**PAGE 10:**  
"THERE ARE REALLY AUTHORS OUT THERE WHO DECIDE HOW THEIR MANGA IS GOING TO END WHILE IT'S STILL GOING!?"

THIS IS KUMETA SELF-REFERENCING HIS OTHER MANGA, SAYONARA ZETSUBOU SENSEI. THE ENDING OF THAT PARTICULAR MANGA WAS FORESHADOWED FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, BUT KUMETA HAS SPOKEN IN VARIOUS PAPER BLOGS ABOUT HOW PEOPLE WOULD FREQUENTLY ASK HIM IF HE HAD PLANNED IT, AND HOW THIS QUESTION FRUSTRATED HIM.

"LIKE GOLGO 13, RIGHT?"

GOLGO 13, BY SAITO TAKAO, IS A MANGA THAT HAS BEEN RUNNING SINCE 1968. IT WAS ORIGINALLY ONLY SUPPOSED TO BE 10 VOLUMES LONG, SO TAKAO PLANNED THE ENDING IN ADVANCE. HOWEVER, 180 VOLUMES LATER, IT'S STILL GOING.

"A BEGINNING-ENDING NOTE!"

THE WORD USED HERE IS 初回文書 (SHOKAI MONJO) WHICH TRANSLATES LITERALLY TO "STARTING DOCUMENT" OR "FIRST NOTE".

"IT'S LIKE HOW THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS FORETELL THE DESTRUCTION OF ALL MANKIND!"  
THEY DON'T. THEY'RE NOT STORED IN THE VATICAN ANYMORE EITHER. THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS WERE POPULAR IN JAPAN AFTER THEY FEATURED HEAVILY IN THE PLOT OF "NEON GENESIS EVANGELION". IN NGE, THE SCROLLS WERE DOCUMENTS FROM OUTER SPACE THAT HELD INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO TRIGGER THE HUMAN INSTRUMENTALITY PROJECT, WHICH, IN A ROUNDABOUT WAY, DOES DESTROY ALL MANKIND.  
AT THE TIME OF NGE'S BROADCAST, THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS WERE CLASSIFIED, THEY'VE SINCE BEEN PUBLISHED.

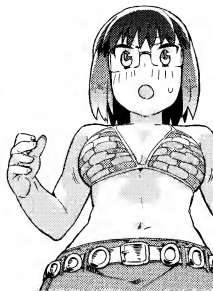
**PAGE 11:**  
"DO BEGINNING-ENDING NOTES REALLY EXIST?!" "OF COURSE"

LIST:

- CONAN BEGINNING-ENDING NOTE  
GREAT DETECTIVE CONAN, BY AOHYAMA GOSHO.
- IPPPO BEGINNING-ENDING NOTE  
HAJIME NO IPPPO BY MORIKAWA GEORGE.
- GLASS BEGINNING-ENDING NOTE  
GLASS MASK BY MIUCHI SUZUE.
- TITAN BEGINNING-ENDING NOTE  
ATTACK ON TITAN, BY ISAYAMA HAJIME.
- KOCHIKAME BEGINNING-ENDING NOTE  
KOCHIRA KATSUSHIKA-KU KAMEARI KOEN MAE HASHIITSUJO BY AKIMOTO OSAMU.
- HXH BEGINNING-ENDING NOTE  
HUNTER x HUNTER BY TOGASHI YOSHIHIRO.
- FSS BEGINNING-ENDING NOTE  
FIVE STAR STORIES BY NAGANO MAMORU.
- TERRA BEGINNING-ENDING NOTE  
TERRA FORMARS BY YU SASUGA AND KENICHI TACHIBANA.

**YASU'S NOTE (MASK):**

THE WORD MEANING "TO HAVE THE COLOUR DRAIN FROM YOUR FACE" DUE TO ANXIETY ETC. IN JAPANESE IS 顔面蒼白 (GANMENSOUHAKU) WHICH TRANSLATES LITERALLY TO "PALE MASK", WHICH I'M GUESSING IS THE MISTAKE THAT YASU AND HIS EDITOR MADE TO CREATE MASK.



ひまわり



I  
Want  
One  
Hundred  
Thousand  
Pecos

I  
Want  
my  
baby  
to be  
healthy  
and  
happy

I  
wanna  
be King  
of the  
Pirates!

I  
Want  
to take  
over  
The  
World



YOU  
INSOLENT  
MONGRELS  
!!!!

WEARING  
A YUKATA  
WITHOUT  
HAVING A  
BATH?!!?

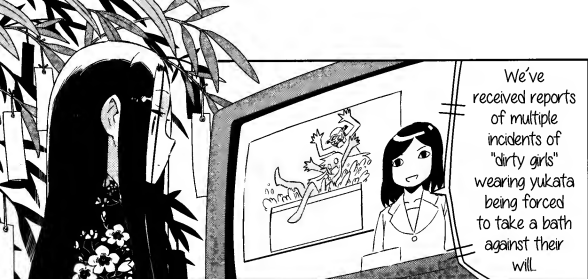
KYAAAAAAAAAAAAH!

YOU'RE  
HAVING  
A BATH  
WHETHER  
YOU WANT  
ONE OR  
NOT!

とぽーん  
SPLASH

ザッぽーん  
SPLASH

GYA  
AAAA  
AAAA  
AAA  
AAH!



We've received reports of multiple incidents of "dirty girls" wearing yukata being forced to take a bath against their will.



YOU REALLY SHOULD TAKE A BATH BEFORE YOU PUT ON A YUKATA...

WELL...



WE BATHE EVERY SINGLE DAY!

OF COURSE WE DID!!

YOU ALL BATHED PROPERLY BEFORE PUTTING ON YOURS, RIGHT?



EVER WANT TO WEAR A YUKATA?

YEAH BUT WHY THE HELL WOULD FASHIONABLE GYARU GIRLS LIKE THAT...

MOST PEOPLE DON'T REALLY GET MANY CHANCES TO WEAR TRADITIONAL JAPANESE CLOTHES LIKE WE DO.

WEARING A YUKATA IS THE BEST THING ABOUT TANABATA.





IT'S A  
CHANCE  
TO SHOW  
OTHERS  
A NEW  
SIDE OF  
YOURSELF.

WELL...



IT'S A  
GREAT  
OPPORTUNITY  
TO SHOW  
BOYS A  
FRESH  
NEW LOOK!

AHH,  
YEAH!



EH?!

YEAH,  
BUT YOU  
LOOK  
THE  
SAME.

I-I-I  
Do?!

Kigu-chan,  
you look so  
different.

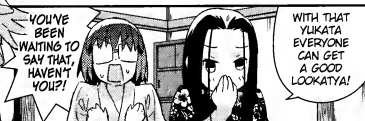


WEARING  
A YUKATA  
ISN'T  
FRESH OR  
EXCITING  
FOR US!

WE HAVE  
TO WEAR  
A KIMONO  
FOR WORK!



YUKATA ARE MADE FROM REALLY THIN FABRIC.





DRESS  
LIKE THIS  
INSTEAD?



IT'S A  
BATH-  
ROBE!



UHHHH...



A  
BATH-  
ROBE!



IT'S  
LIKE A  
WESTERN  
YUKATA,  
KIND OF!



AND  
LET'S GO  
OUT FOR  
TANABATA!



ALL  
RIGHT!  
EVERYONE  
PUT ON A  
BATH-  
ROBE,



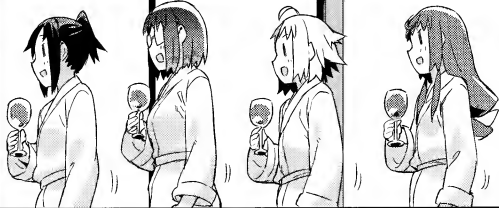
SO  
FRESH  
AND  
EXCIT-  
ING!!



THAT  
REALLY  
IS A NEW  
LOOK!

そ" Shuffle 3

そ" Shuffle 3



BUT BOYS  
WILL  
CHASE  
AFTER  
YOU  
ALL  
NIGHT!

BUT IT'S  
A BRAND  
NEW LOOK  
FOR US.

TO WEAR  
A BATH-  
ROBE ON  
TANABATA  
?!

ISN'T IT  
KINDA  
WEIRD,

WEARING  
SLIPPERS  
WOULD  
BE EVEN  
WEIRDER  
!!!

SLIP-  
PERS?

YEAH, I  
GUESS  
GOING  
BARE-  
FOOT IS  
A BIT  
WEIRD.

LIKE...  
WHAT ARE  
YOU GOING  
TO WEAR  
ON YOUR  
FEET!

THERE'S  
JUST  
TOO MANY  
PROBLEMS  
!!

IF WE GO  
TO TANABATA  
DRESSED AS  
WESTERNERS  
THEN...

KUKURU-  
CHAN IS  
RIGHT,  
THERE'S  
GONNA BE  
TOO MANY  
PROBLEMS.



I...  
DON'T  
THINK  
THAT'S  
RIGHT,  
KIGU-  
CHAN...

I am a boy.  
B.Mari!

WE'D HAVE  
TO WRITE  
ALL OUR  
WISHES IN  
ENGLISH  
!!!!

IF SHE  
WRITES  
THAT  
DOWN AS A  
WISH THEN  
WHO KNOWS  
WHAT KIND  
OF WEIRD  
STUFF MIGHT  
HAPPEN!

MARI-  
SAN ONLY  
KNOWS ONE  
SENTENCE  
IN ENGLISH,  
"I AM A  
BOY"!!

DIDN'T  
YOU  
STUDY  
ABROAD?

I'M SO  
BAD AT  
ENGLISH!  
I WON'T  
BE ABLE TO  
WISH FOR  
ANYTHING!

"THE  
MILKY  
WAY!"

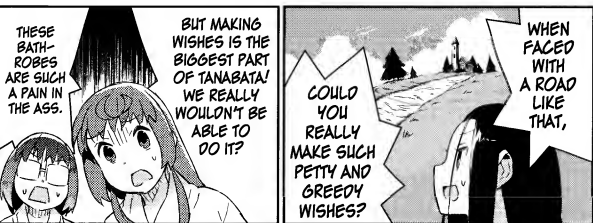
LIKE,  
THE NAME  
OF OUR  
GALAXY IN  
ENGLISH  
IS..

I KNOW  
MORE  
ENGLISH  
THAN  
THAT!

O!  
DON'T  
MAKE  
FUN  
OF ME!

WHEN I  
HEAR THAT,  
ALL I CAN  
THINK ABOUT  
IS NELLO AND  
PATRASCHÉ  
RUNNING UP  
AND DOWN  
THE STREETS  
SELLING MILK  
IN "A DOG OF  
FLANDERS".

"THE  
MILKY  
WAY?"  
A WAY  
FOR MILK?  
LIKE A  
MILKY  
ROAD OR  
SOME-  
THING?



THESE  
BATH-  
ROBES  
ARE SUCH  
A PAIN IN  
THE ASS.

BUT MAKING  
WISHES IS THE  
BIGGEST PART  
OF TANABATA!  
WE REALLY  
WOULDN'T BE  
ABLE TO  
DO IT?

COULD  
YOU  
REALLY  
MAKE SUCH  
PETTY AND  
GREEDY  
WISHES?

WHEN  
FACED  
WITH  
A ROAD  
LIKE  
THAT,



IT'S THE  
PERVERT  
WE SAW  
ON TV  
EARLIER!

ARGHH!

OI!



TAKEN  
A  
BATH?

HAVE  
YOU  
ALL



YOU'RE  
WEARING A  
WESTERN  
BATHROBE,  
SO YOU  
NEED TO  
USE A  
WESTERN  
BATHTUB!

I'M NOT  
TALKING  
ABOUT A  
JAPANESE-  
STYLE BATH  
HERE.

I  
ALREADY  
SAID!  
I BATHE  
EVERY  
DAY!

**THAT'S  
DESPICABLE  
AND  
INSOLENT!**

**YOU HAVEN'T  
BEEN IN A  
WESTERN  
BATHTUB  
BUT YOU'RE  
STILL  
WEARING A  
WESTERN  
BATHROBE?!**

**IT'S  
THESE.**

**LET ME  
EXPLAIN.**

**WHAT'S  
THE  
DIFFER-  
ENCE?**

**W-WHERE  
DID YOU  
GET  
MARI'S  
BATH  
FROM?**

**SEE!  
WHAT YOU  
USED WAS  
JUST AN  
ORDINARY  
JAPANESE  
BATH!**

**IF IT  
DOESN'T  
HAVE  
THOSE,  
THEN IT'S  
NOT A REAL  
WESTERN  
BATH!**

**THOSE  
CAT FEET  
THINGS.**

**B-BUT  
I...**

**TAKE  
IT OFF!  
TAKE  
IT OFF  
NOW!**

**YOU'RE NOT  
PROPERLY  
QUALIFIED  
TO WEAR  
THAT  
BATHROBE!**

Just soaking  
in the water  
alone will  
get rid of  
most dirt,  
and leave  
your skin  
shining and  
silky smooth!

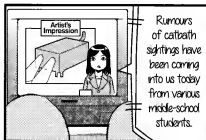
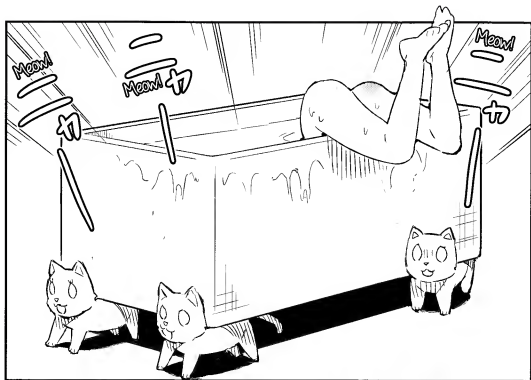
Without  
any soap or  
bodywash,  
let yourself  
soak in the  
water for  
at least  
10 minutes

**USED TAMORI-  
SENSEI'S TRIED  
AND TESTED  
SUPER BATHING  
METHOD!**

(©Your Results may differ)







Yasu's  
comment

UZANNU HAS GOT SO MANY DIFFERENT THINGS GOING ON IN HER DESIGN THAT MAKE HER ULTRA-ANNOYING, BUT THANKS TO KUMETA-SENSEI'S WONDERFUL WRITING AND THE STRONG PERSONALITY HE GAVE HER, I HAD A HELL OF A LOT OF FUN BRINGING HER TO LIFE, AND THE ANIME EPISODE SHE WAS IN WAS GREAT TOO.

SHE'S A VERY UNLUCKY GIRL, BUT I LOVE HER.

HER CLOTHES WERE PRETTY MUCH LEFT UP TO ME, SO I DECIDED TO GIVE HER HAKAMA INSTEAD OF THE NORMAL KIMONO.  
NO REAL REASON FOR IT, I JUST THOUGHT IT LOOKED CUTE!

ARE REAL ROOKIE RAKUGO PERFORMERS EVEN ALLOWED TO WEAR HAKAMA?  
I DON'T ACTUALLY KNOW SO I'LL JUST SHUT UP NOW.

UZATTEI  
UZANNU



# TRANSLATOR'S NOTES

## BATHMAN

THE TITLE 風呂好きな男 (FURO ZUKI NA OTOKO) IS A REFERENCE TO RAKUGO STORY 風呂敷間男 (FUROSHIKI MAOTOKO - CHEATER UNDER WRAPS).

FUROSHIKI MAOTOKO IS A STORY ABOUT A WOMAN, WHO AFTER FEELING LONELY FROM HER HUSBAND LEAVING TOWN, INVITES A MALE FRIEND OF HERS AROUND TO "COMFORT" HER. OBVIOUSLY WHILE THIS IS HAPPENING HER HUSBAND APPEARS SUDDENLY, AND THE ADULTERER IS STASHED AWAY INSIDE A CUPBOARD WITH THE IDEA THAT WHEN A CHANCE OCCURS, HE CAN ESCAPE. HOWEVER THE HUSBAND FALLS ASLEEP DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF THE CUPBOARD. DESPERATE, THE ADULTERER CALLS OUT TO ONE OF THE HUSBAND'S AIDES AND CONVINCES HIM TO HELP HIM ESCAPE. THE AIDE LISTENS AND DEVISES A PLAN IN WHICH THE ADULTERER HAS TO WRAP HIMSELF UP IN A WRAPPING CLOTH. THINGS DON'T GO QUITE TO PLAN, HOWEVER...

THE TITLE OF THIS CHAPTER DIRECTLY TRANSLATES TO "BATH LOVING MAN" OR "THE MAN WHO LOVES BATHS" BUT I THOUGHT THAT "BATHMAN" WAS A LITTLE MORE SNAPPY AND FUN.

CHAPTER FIRST PUBLISHED 7TH JUNE 2013.

### PAGE 1:

"THAT WAS SOOOOO LAME!"

THIS CHARACTER IS A GYARU. "GYARU" IS THE JAPANESE transliteration OF THE ENGLISH WORD 'GAL'. (SEE NEXT NOTE.)

GYARU OFTEN MAKE HEAVY USE OF SLANG AND ABBREVIATIONS, WHAT SHE SAYS IN THIS PANEL IS ヤンパルクイナ (YANBARUKUINA) WHICH IS THE WORD FOR THE OKINAWA RAIL, A SMALL BIRD FOUND ONLY IN OKINAWA.

IN SLANG TERMS IT MEANS ヤバイ (YABAI - CRAP, RISKY). THE LATIN NAME FOR THE OKINAWA RAIL IS "GALLIRALLUS OKINAWAE" WHOSE FIRST THREE LETTERS TRANSLITERATE STRAIGHT BACK INTO "GYARU" AGAIN.

"OF COURSE NOT MISTER, WE'RE NAUGHTY DIRTY GIRLS!"

THOUGH I PLAYED UP THE BAWDY SIDE, THE TERM THIS GIRL USES TO DESCRIBE HERSELF AND HER FRIENDS IS 汚ギャル (OGYARU - LIT. DIRTY GAL) WHICH REFERS TO A GIRL WHO DOESN'T WASH, SHOWER OR CHANGE HER CLOTHES/UNDERWEAR ETC. FOR WEEKS AT A TIME.

IT'S PART OF "GYARU" FASHION PHENOMENON IN JAPAN, WHERE JAPANESE GIRLS WEAR OUTRAGEOUS AND FLAMBOYANT CLOTHES, AS WELL AS WEARING FAKE TAN/NAILS ETC. AND TAKE LITTLE INTEREST IN FINDING EMPLOYMENT OR GETTING MARRIED. THOUGH OGYARU AREN'T REALLY COMMON ANYMORE, THE NOT WASHING OR CHANGING CLOTHES PART OF IT WAS FROM REBELLION AGAINST THE PREVAILING JAPANESE CULTURE OF BEING FASTIDIOUSLY CLEAN AND TIDY AS WELL AS BATHING EVERY DAY. THE TERM IS KIND OF STIGMATISED TODAY AS OGYARU WERE OFTEN PORTRAYED AS HOMELESS OR PROSTITUTES IN THE JAPANESE MEDIA.

### PAGE 3:

"YOU REALLY SHOULD TAKE A BATH BEFORE YOU PUT ON A YUKATA"

"YUKATA" (浴衣) LITERALLY MEANS "BATHING CLOTHES" IN JAPANESE.

(浴 - BATHING 衣 - CLOTHING).

"WEARING A YUKATA IS THE BEST THING ABOUT TANABATA."

"TANABATA", ALSO KNOWN AS "STAR FESTIVAL", IS A FESTIVAL THAT STARTS IN JAPAN ON THE 7TH OF JULY. IT CELEBRATES THE MEETING OF THE DEITIES ORIHIME AND HIKOBOSHI (REPRESENTED BY THE STARS VEGA AND ALTAIR).

ORIHIME WAS THE GODDESS OF WEAVING, AND SPENT ALL HER TIME WEAVING WONDERFUL CLOTHES ON THE BANK OF THE HEAVENLY RIVER "天の川" (AMA NO GAWA - THE MILKY WAY) SO MUCH TIME, IN FACT, THAT SHE NEVER HAD THE TIME TO MEET ANYONE OR FALL IN LOVE. HER FATHER INTRODUCES HER TO HIKOBOSHI, THE STAR OF COW HERDING. ORIHIME AND HIKOBOSHI FALL IN LOVE, AND ORIHIME GRADUALLY STOPPED MAKING CLOTHES. HER FATHER, FURIOUS, SPLITS THEM APART AND CASTS THEM TO DIFFERENT SIDES OF THE HEAVENLY RIVER, BUT ALLOWS THEM TO MEET ONCE A YEAR, ON TANABATA.

SINCE ORIHIME IS THE GODDESS OF WEAVING, YOUNG GIRLS IN ANCIENT CHINA WOULD PRAY TO HER ON TANABATA TO IMPROVE THEIR WEAVING AND SEWING SKILLS. OVER TIME THIS MORPHED INTO THE WISHING THAT HAPPENS TODAY.

THE DATE OF TANABATA, 7TH JULY, HAS ALSO BEEN NAMED AS "YUKATA DAY" TO HELP KEEP THE YUKATA TRADITION ALIVE.



**PAGE 4:**  
**"IT'S A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW BOYS A FRESH NEW LOOK!"**  
MAN IN THIS PANEL IS ICHIKAWA EBIZO XI, MAKING HIS LONG-AWAITED RETURN TO JOSHIRAKU AFTER SO LONG.

**"WE HAVE TO WEAR A KIMONO FOR WORK! WEARING A YUKATA ISN'T FRESH OR EXCITING FOR US!"**

"KIMONO" TRANSLATES DIRECTLY INTO "THING TO WEAR" AND IS A NORMAL TRADITIONAL JAPANESE GARMENT. TECHNICALLY YOU COULD SAY THAT A YUKATA IS A KIMONO, HOWEVER THERE ARE DIFFERENCES. YUKATA ARE OFTEN MUCH LIGHTER AND MADE OF COTTON INSTEAD OF SILK, THEY OFTEN HAVE THE SAME SHAPE AS A SUMMER KIMONO, BUT ARE USUALLY DYED IN FANTASTIC COLOURS OR PATTERNS, AND ARE GENERALLY MORE "FANCY", AND A MORE FORMAL OR DRESSY TYPE OF KIMONO. UNLIKE KIMONO, THEY ARE OFTEN WORN WITHOUT SOCKS OR ANY KIND OF UNDERSGARMENT. THE TYPE OF YUKATA THAT IS STILL WORN AFTER BATHING IS MORE LIKE A BATHROBE, AND IS USUALLY CUT ABOVE THE KNEE, AND UNPATTERNED.

**PAGE 5:**  
**"WHAT AM I, SOME KIND OF SLEAZY HOT-SPRING MASSAGE GIRL!?"**  
REFERENCE TO ATAMI HOT SPRING RESORTS, IN WHICH YOU CAN PURCHASE THE COMPANY OF A "COMPANION". THEY OFTEN WEAR SEE-THROUGH ROBES LIKE GAN HERE, BUT THEY USUALLY HAVE SOMETHING ELSE ON UNDERNEATH.

**PAGE 8:**  
**"I'M SO BAD AT ENGLISH! I WON'T BE ABLE TO WISH FOR ANYTHING!"**  
**"DIDN'T YOU STUDY ABROAD THOUGH?"**  
REFERENCE TO KIGU'S FORMER VOICE ACTOR GOING TO AMERICA TO STUDY.

**"NO, WHEN I HEAR THAT ALL I CAN THINK ABOUT IS NELLO AND PATRASCHE RUNNING UP AND DOWN THE STREETS SELLING MILK IN A DOG OF FLANDERS."**  
REFERENCE TO OUIDA NOVEL, "A DOG OF FLANDERS", IN WHICH THE TWO MAIN CHARACTERS, A BOY NAMED NELLO AND A DOG NAMED PATRASCHE EARN MONEY BY SELLING MILK FROM THE BACK OF A CART.

**PAGE 9:**  
**"YOU'RE WEARING A WESTERN BATHROBE SO YOU NEED A WESTERN BATHTUB!"**  
JAPANESE BATHS, FURO (風呂), ARE USUALLY SQUARE OR RECTANGULAR, MADE OF WOOD, HAVE STRAIGHT WALLS AND ARE DESIGNED FOR SITTING AND BATHING, RATHER THAN RECLINING. THEY NEVER HAVE THE DECORATIVE BALL AND CLAW FEET THAT SOME WESTERN BATHS HAVE.

**PAGE 10:**  
**"B-BUT I... USED TAMORI-SENSEI'S TRIED AND TESTED BATHING METHOD!"**  
TAMORI IS A HUGE JAPANESE CELEBRITY AND COMEDIAN. HIS METHOD OF BATHING IS ACTUALLY A REAL THING THAT HE'S KNOWN FOR IN JAPAN. HE'S WRITTEN MANY HEALTH BOOKS, AND POSITS THAT FREQUENT BATHING WITH HARSH SOAPS AND CHEMICALS WILL ACTUALLY WASH AWAY HELPFUL OILS AND SEBUM AND MAKE YOUR SKIN WORSE. THE "HAVE YOU HAD A HAIRCUT?" LINE ON THE NEXT PAGE IS A CATCHPHRASE OF HIS.

**PAGE 12:**  
**"A MOVING BATH WITH CAT LEGS, IT'S NOT A CATBUS, IT'S A CATBATH!"**  
BUS AND BATH ARE PRONOUNCED THE SAME IN JAPANESE, MAKING THIS A WORDPLAY ON THE CATBUS FROM "MY NEIGHBOUR TOTORO", A STUDIO GHIBLI FILM DIRECTED BY HAYAO MIYAZAKI.

**"SHE'S BEEN RIDING AROUND ON TOP OF A LOT OF ANIMALS LATELY, HUH?"**  
REFERENCE TO CHAPTER 45'S OPENING PAGE AND ENDING.



# じょひらく

JOSHIRAKU





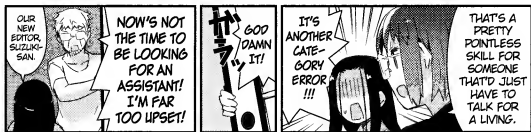
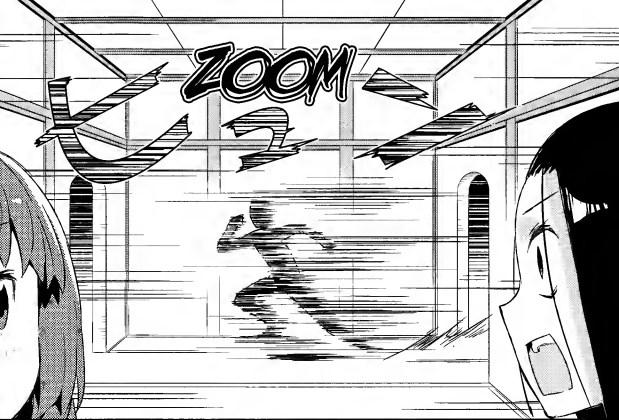


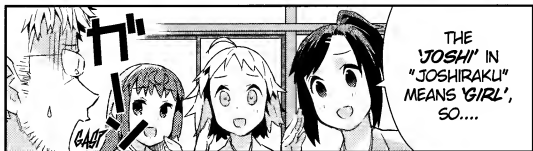
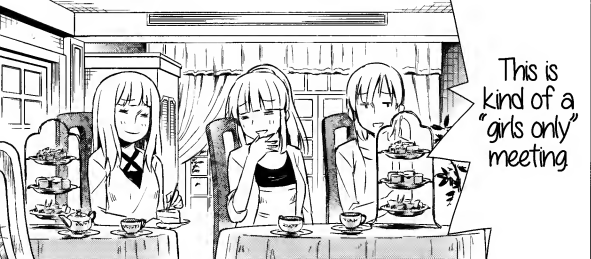
## **MANGAKA'S ASSISTANT APPLICATION FORM.**

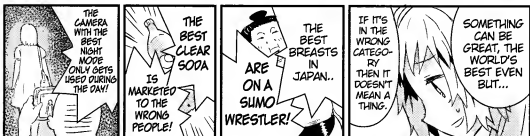
**ASSISTANT NEEDED FOR KOUJI KUMETA.  
PLEASE ENCLOSE SOME EXAMPLES OF:  
PEOPLE - BUILDINGS - NATURAL SCENES.  
MAIL TO THE INCLUDED ADDRESS.**







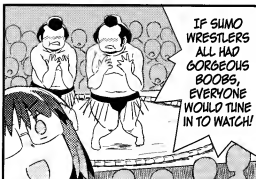
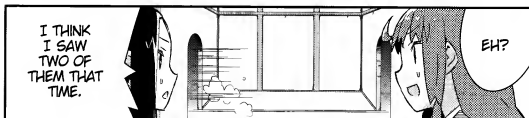




- Letting off cannons inside the Budokan during martial arts competitions
- Miraculous medical operations from BJ-series, despite being completely unlicensed
- Fancy modern apartments out in the mountains
- Flip-Phones full of amazing technology even though the rest of the world uses smartphones
- Spam telephone calls made by terrible actors
- Real porn stars making fake amateur porn
- K-POP at the Japan Expo
- Being told to eat cake, even though there's no bread
- Madnoid City
- Creating a tear-jerker love-story manga and having it marketed as a comedy
- Creating a heart-racing manga full of exciting battles and having it marketed as a comedy
- Creating a deeply moving sports manga and having it marketed as a comedy

**EVEN IF  
SOME-  
THING IS  
GREAT,  
CATEGORY  
ERRORS  
STILL  
HAPPEN!**





IF WE PAID NO ATTENTION TO STUFF BEING IN THE WRONG CATEGORY,



EVEN IN RAKUGO THEATRES,



WHAT ABOUT FRENCH RESTAURANTS SERVING ITALIAN PASTA...



AND AS LONG AS IT'S GOOD,



ENRAKU-SENSEI IS SO AWESOME.

NO, THAT WAS SEKO...



YEAH! EVEN WITH MANGA AUTHORS,



ALL THESE RULES AND CATEGORIES... THEY'RE SO STIFLING AND DESTRUCTIVE!





WE  
CAN  
CHEAT!



THIS  
ISN'T THE  
OLYMPICS,  
THIS IS  
RAKUGO!  
THERE'S NO  
RESTRICTION  
OR LAWS,  
SO...



HOLD  
ON A  
MINUTE...

I THINK  
THERE'S  
MORE  
PEOPLE  
HERE NOW  
THAN HAVE  
EVER  
COME TO  
SEE US.



THE  
THING  
IS...

MAYBE  
EVERYONE  
IN JAPAN  
WHO CAN  
RUN 100M  
IN UNDER 10  
SECONDS  
IS HERE..



THERE  
WAS  
MORE  
OF  
THEM?!

THIS  
SHOULD  
MAKE US  
1 SECOND  
FASTER...

Ehreh eh eh eh eh hehheh.



**Guests  
who can  
run 100m  
in 10  
seconds**



**Ordinary  
Guests**



MY VOICE...  
IT'S GETTING  
DEEPER...

I'M...  
I'M  
TURNING  
INTO A  
BOY!

NOT ONLY  
THAT, I THINK  
I'M GETTING  
SOME SIDE  
EFFECTS FROM  
THE STEROIDS...



THEN  
THIS IS  
USE-  
LESS!



GOD  
DAMN  
IT!

WHAT  
WAS  
YOUR  
ORIGINAL  
TIME?  
1 SEC-  
OND?

NO  
WAY!

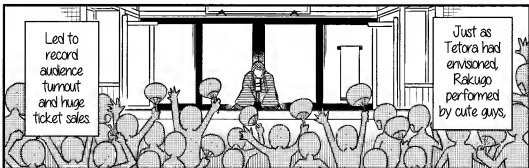


WE HAVE TO  
LEARN HOW  
TO RUN  
100M IN 10  
SECONDS!

IF WE CAN'T  
FIND A WAY  
TO GET  
SOME OF  
THOSE NEW  
GUESTS,  
THEN WE'RE  
DOOMED!



W-WE'RE  
IN THE  
MINORITY!





Yasu's  
comment

I USUALLY LEAVE THE DRAWING OF THE DRESSING ROOM AND BACKGROUNDS TO MY ASSISTANT SAKURABA-KUN, I COULD COUNT THE AMOUNT OF TIMES I'VE HAD TO DRAW IT ONE ONE HAND.

SINCE IT WAS OUT OF MY CONTROL, STRANGE LITTLE DETAILS THAT I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT MADE IT IN, MYSTERIOUS POSTERS AND STRANGE DOLLS...

MY TWO ASSISTANTS ARE REALLY THE UNSUNG HEROS OF JOSHIRAKU, AND I CAN'T THANK THEM ENOUGH.

I DREW LOADS OF PICTURES AS A REFERENCE FOR THE ANIMATORS FOR THE ANIME ADAPTATION, BUT THE WAY THEY DREW THE DRESSING ROOM WAS SO CLEAR AND CONSISTENT THAT I ENDED UP USING IT AS MY REFERENCE INSTEAD!

ANIMATORS REALLY ARE AMAZING!



# TRANSLATOR'S NOTES

## CATEGORIZATION CELEBRATION

TITLE (カテゴリー万歳 - KATEGORII BANZAI) IS A REFERENCE TO RAKUGO STORY 掛取万歳

(KAKETORI MANZAI - TAX COLLECTION FARCE).

STORY REVOLVES HACHIGOROU, A MAN HOPELESSLY IN DEBT, AND TERRIFIED OF AN UPCOMING TAX COLLECTION.

HE COMES UP WITH A PLAN TO ALLAY AND CONFUSE THE DEBT COLLECTORS, AND ENLISTS THE HELP OF HIS WISE-CRACKING LANDLADY AND THE LOCAL TEMPERAMENTAL FISHMONGER. HE MANAGES TO CONVINCE THEM TO HELP HIM, WITH THE PROMISE OF REDUCING OR DELAYING THE PAYBACK OF THEIR OWN DEBT. FINALLY A STAGE ACTOR APPEARS AND OFFERS TO HELP, HOWEVER, NEGOTIATING WITH HIM TURNS OUT TO BE HARDER THAN THE TAX COLLECTORS...

DURING PERFORMANCES OF THIS STORY, THE RAKUGO PERFORMER WILL OFTEN ADD IN PERSONAL STORIES AND JOKES ABOUT HOW MUCH THEY HATE TAXMEN.

CHAPTER FIRST PUBLISHED 9TH JULY 2013.

### PAGE 3:

"404 CATEGORY ERROR: COMPATIBILITY NOT FOUND!"

"CATEGORY ERROR" IS THE NAME USED IN DOLJIN CIRCLES WHEN AN AUTHOR SENDS THEIR WORK TO COMPETITIONS, JOB APPLICATIONS ETC. TO WHICH THE WORK ISN'T SUITED. SO SENDING A RESUME FULL OF SHONEN STEREOTYPES INTO A JOSEI MANGA COMPETITION ETC.

### PAGE 4:

"OUR NEW EDITOR, SUZUKI-SAN"

RYOICHI "JOSHIJIMA" SUZUKI, JOSHIRAKU'S EDITOR.

### PAGE 5:

"HE'S KINDA GIRLY, HUH."

THIS IS KIMETA BANTERING WITH SUZUKI RYOICHI. KIMETA HAS BEEN CALLING SUZUKI "JOSHIJIMA" (LITERALLY GIRLY JIMA) SINCE AN INCIDENT WHERE HE HAD WANTED TO GET SOME FANCY SWEETS FOR THE ANIME STAFF AFTER THEY'D FINISHED RECORDING, BUT THE SWEET SHOP HE'D WANTED TO GO TO WAS CLOSED. AFTER BEING ASKED WHY HE COULDN'T JUST GO TO A DIFFERENT STORE, HE REPLIED, "THAT DOESN'T MAKE A GIRL HAPPY!"

### PAGE 6:

"I KNOW BAMBARA, WOLOF, NORTHERN SOTHO, TSWANA... AND A LITTLE ESPERANTO."

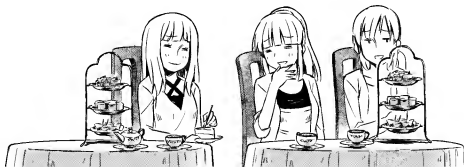
TSWANA AND NORTHERN SOTHO ARE LANGUAGES MOSTLY FOUND IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. BAMBARA IS MALINESE, WOLOF IS USED IN SENEGAL AND GAMBIA, AND ESPERANTO IS A CONSTRUCTED LANGUAGE CREATED IN 1887 BY LAZARIUS ZAMENHOF, INTENDED TO BE A LANGUAGE USED ALL AROUND THE WORLD.

"THE BEST CLEAR SODA IS MARKETED TO THE WRONG PEOPLE!"

PEPSI HAVE RELEASED A FEW DIFFERENT KINDS OF CLEAR COLA IN JAPAN, BUT NONE HAVE SOLD PARTICULARLY WELL, DUE TO THE COMPANY THAT HANDLES PEPSI'S PRESENCE IN JAPAN, SUNTORY, MARKETING THE COLA TO THE WRONG DEMOGRAPHIC. EITHER JUST TO KIDS OR TO PEOPLE WHO DON'T DRINK COLA AT ALL.

"THE CAMERA WITH THE BEST NIGHT MODE ONLY GETS USED DURING THE DAY!"

INFRA-RED CAMERAS HAVE THE ABILITY TO SEE THROUGH THIN WHITE CLOTHING IN STRONG SUNLIGHT, AND THUS BECAME A FAVOURITE TOOL FOR PERVERTS.



**PAGE 7:**  
**LIST:**  
**LETTING OFF CANNONS INSIDE THE BUDOKAN DURING MARTIAL ARTS COMPETITIONS!**  
LATER SAMURAI HAD TO BE TRAINED TO USE WEAPONS, INCLUDING CANNONS, WHILST ALSO RECEIVING MORE TRADITIONAL MARTIAL ARTS TRAINING. DURING LARGE MARTIAL ARTS COMPETITIONS ETC, CANNONS AND OTHER WEAPON TRAINED EXPERTS MAKE APPEARANCES, DESPITE NOT BEING MARTIAL ARTS.

**MIRACULOUS MEDICAL OPERATIONS FROM BJ-SENSEI, DESPITE BEING UNLICENSED!**  
REFERENCE TO MANGA "BLACK JACK" WHOSE TITULAR CHARACTER IS AN UNLICENSED SURGEON.

**K-POP AT THE JAPAN EXPO.**  
THE JAPAN EXPO IS AN EVENT HELD IN FRANCE EVERY YEAR DESIGNED TO INTRODUCE ELEMENTS OF JAPANESE CULTURE TO FRANCE AND THE WEST AS A WHOLE. ORGANIZERS ADDED KOREAN POP MUSIC ACTS ONE YEAR FOR SOME REASON.

**BEING TOLD TO EAT CAKE, EVEN THOUGH THERE'S NO BREAD.**  
REFERENCE TO THE QUOTE, "LET THEM EAT CAKE", USUALLY MISATTRIBUTED TO MARIE ANTOINETTE.

**MACHIDA CITY.**  
A SMALL CITY INSIDE THE TOKYO METROPOLIS. REFERS TO ITSELF AS AN ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE OF SORTS, BUT IS DIFFICULT TO ACCESS DUE TO BEING SURROUNDED BY RIVERS.

**CREATING A TEAR-JERKER LOVE-STORY MANGA AND HAVING IT MARKETING AS A COMEDY.**  
KUMETA SELF-REFERENCING HIS EXPERIENCES WITH HIS MANGA, "SODATTE DARLING".

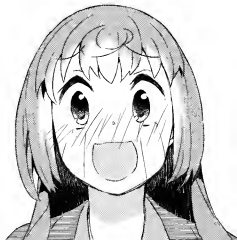
**CREATING A HEART-RACING MANGA FULL OF EXCITING BATTLES AND HAVING IT MARKETING AS A COMEDY.**  
"THE SUNSHINE SOLDIER POKA-POKA", ALSO BY KUMETA.

**CREATING A DEEPLY MOVING SPORTS MANGA AND HAVING IT MARKETING AS A COMEDY.**  
REFERENCE TO "GO!! SOUTHERN ICE HOCKEY CLUB", BY, YOU GUESSED IT, KUMETA.

**PAGE 9:**  
**"AS LONG AS THEY'RE FUNNY THEN THERE'S NO REASON WHY THEY SHOULDN'T BE LET ON TV!"**  
REFERENCE TO MITSURO KUBO AND MOTOO ABIKO, TWO MANGAKA WHO APPEARED ON A SHOW USUALLY RESERVED FOR JUST COMEDIANS CALLED "SHOCKING TELEPHONE", WHO TURNED OUT TO BE PRETTY FUNNY AND POPULAR GUESTS.

**"ENRAKU-SENSEI IS SO AWESOME."**  
REFERENCE TO MARATHON-RUNNER 'TOSHIHIKO SEKO' AND RAKUGO LEGEND 'SANYUTEI ENRAKU THE 6TH', WHO ARE THE SPITTING IMAGE OF ONE ANOTHER.

**"JUST AS TETORA HAD ENVISIONED, RAKUGO PERFORMED BY CUTE GUYS LED TO RECORD AUDIENCE TURNOUT AND HUGE TICKET SALES."**  
CHECK OUT "SHOUNA GENROKU RAKUGO SHINJUU", BY KUMOTA HARUKO.





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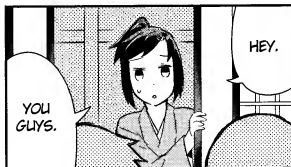
じょしらく



THANK  
YOU FOR  
LISTENING.



TOUGH  
CROWD...



YOU  
GUYS.

HEY.



SPARKLE

HOW LONG  
ARE YOU  
GOING TO  
STAY AS...  
GUYS?

HM?

AH!

WHAT  
THE  
HELL  
WAS  
THAT  
FOR?

OO  
OW  
WW  
W!!

キ

HEY! JUST BECAUSE I LOOK LIKE A MAN DOESN'T MEAN I GREW ONE OF... THOSE!



AHHH, IT HURT YOU, YOU REALLY ARE A BOY...



GETTING BETRAYED BY TETORA LIKE THAT WAS A HUGE KICK IN THE BALLS!!

YOU DEFINITELY MADE A BIG FUSS WHEN THE BAT HIT, THOUGH.

YOU HIT ME IN THE CROTCH WITH A BASEBALL BAT, IT'D HURT NO MATTER WHAT!



BUT YOU SCREAMED IN PAIN.



WE'RE NOT BOYS!

MY MY, THE 4 OF YOU TURN INTO BOYS AND NOW IT'S NOTHING BUT NON-STOP DIRTY TALK!



THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!

MARII-SAN YOU'RE SO NAUGHTY, YOU WON'T STOP TALKING ABOUT BALLS!

IN ORDER TO KEEP UP WITH OUR GUESTS WHO COULD RUN 100 METRES IN 10 SECONDS, THESE GUYS ALL TOOK STEROIDS. UNFORTUNATELY THERE WAS SOME "SIDE-EFFECTS" AND WELL, THEY ALL KINDA TURNED INTO MEN!



OH, RIGHT! FOR ANY OF YOU THAT BOUGHT THIS MAGAZINE JUST BECAUSE OF THE "ATTACK ON TITAN" SPECIAL AND DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON, LET ME EXPLAIN...

I COULDN'T  
HELP IT, THE  
CHAPTERS  
KINDA FLOW  
TOGETHER...

HEY,  
DON'T  
RUIN LAST  
MONTH'S  
PLOT!

WHAT WAS  
IT LIKE,  
LIVING AS  
GUYS FOR  
THE PAST  
MONTH?

SO  
ANYWAY,

IN FACT  
IT KINDA  
SUCKED.

BEING A  
GUY WAS  
NOWHERE  
NEAR AS  
MUCH FUN  
AS I  
THOUGHT IT  
WAS GOING  
TO BE.

UHH...

I COULDN'T  
WATCH THE  
"LADIESA"  
CHAT SHOW!  
OR EAT ANY  
LADY BORDEN  
ICE CREAM!

AND LADIES  
DISCOUNT  
DAY WAS  
JUST AS  
EXPENSIVE  
AS A  
NORMAL  
DAY!

I COULDN'T  
USE ANY OF  
THE  
LADIES-ONLY  
FOOD AND  
TRAVEL  
DISCOUNTS  
IN STORES  
ANYMORE.

THEY  
WOULDN'T  
LET ME  
ONTO THE  
LADIES-ONLY  
CARRIAGES  
ON TRAINS...

I'VE JUST  
THOUGHT  
OF SOME-  
THING!

AH!

YOU KNOW,  
SUMMER  
VACATION  
WILL BE  
OVER SOON.

WE  
WANT  
TO!  
BUT  
WE  
CAN'T  
!!

WHY  
DON'T  
YOU GO  
BACK TO  
HOW YOU  
WERE,  
THEN?



IF YOU  
CHANGED YOUR  
GENDER OVER  
THE SUMMER  
WITHOUT ANYONE  
KNOWING, I BET  
YOU COULD GET UP  
TO ALL KINDS OF  
MISCHIEF!

WHEN SUMMER  
VACATION ENDS,  
PEOPLE ALWAYS  
HAVE PLENTY OF  
STORIES ABOUT  
WHAT KIND OF  
MISCHIEF THEY  
GOT UP TO,  
RIGHT?

IF WE'RE  
TALKING  
ABOUT THIS  
I DID HAVE  
ONE GOOD  
THING  
HAPPEN TO ME...

AH,  
WELL...

YOU'RE  
JUST  
WANT  
GOSSIP,  
DON'T  
YOU?

SPILL  
THE  
BEANS,  
GUYS!

THIS SUMMER  
HE ACTUALLY  
GRABBED ME  
AND GAVE ME  
A SHOULDER  
MESSAGE  
INSTEAD!

EBIZO-SENPAI  
USUALLY GIVES  
ME THE COLD  
SHOULDER BUT,

I WONDER  
WHAT  
CHANGED  
FOR THAT  
TO HAPPEN...

HE  
FINALLY  
NOTICED US!  
EBIZO-  
SENPAI  
NOTICED  
US!

SOME-  
THING  
SIMILAR  
HAPPENED  
TO ME  
TOO...

EHH?!  
REALLY?

AH!  
YOU'RE  
SO  
LUCKY  
!!

HE  
INVITED  
ME OUT  
FOR  
DINNER.

**YOU MIGHT  
GET STUCK  
AS BOYS  
FOREVER!**

**YOU  
KNOW GUYS,  
IF YOU'RE  
CARELESS AND  
DON'T TURN  
BACK INTO  
GIRLS SOON,**

**HEY I  
WASN'T  
HAPPY!**

**OF COURSE  
MARI-SAN WAS  
PROBABLY HAPPY  
ABOUT IT SEEING  
HOW SHE'S A  
CROSS-DRESSING  
BOY ANYWAY,  
BUT I HATE IT!**

**I'VE WANTED  
TO TURN BACK  
EVER SINCE IT  
HAPPENED!**

**SPLASH**

**WE HAVE  
TO LOOK  
AT CASES  
WHERE  
THIS HAS  
HAPPENED  
BEFORE...**

**BUT WHAT  
CAN WE  
DO TO  
TURN  
BACK?**

- Wishing upon a magical book to become a true manly man and get turned into a girl instead.
- Getting so turned-on from reading porn in the bathroom that you turn into a girl.
- Getting hit by a bolt of lightning after school and changing sex.
- Getting changed into a girl by Charot Requiem.

**THINK OF  
AS MANY  
METHODS  
FOR TURNING  
INTO A GIRL  
THAT YOU  
CAN!**

**THIS  
ISN'T  
RANMA!**

**WHAT IF  
I HAD  
TURNED  
INTO A  
PANDA?**

**I WAS  
SURE  
THAT  
WOULD  
TURN  
YOU  
BACK...**

AREN'T THOSE  
ALL JUST  
CROSS-  
DRESSING,  
MARI-SAN?

- Enter AKB48 as the 49th Member
- Get cursed by a doll
- Become a guppy-owning trepanner
- Fulfill your grandmother's last wish to win the chairmanship of the all-girls school
- Plot to kill Sakamoto Ryouma
- Sell 283 Million albums
- Go through a messy divorce and then get hired as a maid for the house you got kicked out of

WAIT,  
I HAVE  
A FEW  
MORE.

SIDE-EFFECTS  
FROM THE  
STEROIDS...

HMMM,  
HOW DID  
YOU TURN  
INTO MEN IN  
THE FIRST  
PLACE....

YOU NEED TO  
TAKE MEDICINE  
WITH FEMINIZING  
SIDE-EFFECTS!

THAT'S IT!  
TO TURN  
BACK  
INTO GIRLS,

WE NEED  
TO TAKE  
A MORE  
SCIENTIFIC  
APPROACH!

STOP  
THINKING OF  
SILLY MANGA  
METHODS  
FOR TURNING  
INTO A GIRL.

AHH YEAH!  
I'VE HEARD  
THAT SOME  
HAIR-LOSS  
MEDICINE CAN  
TURN YOU  
INTO A GIRL!

HAIR  
LOSS  
TREAT-  
MENT!

WE'RE  
GIRLS  
AGAIN!

WE'RE  
BACK!

Rustle  
Rustle

I-IT  
DOES?

IT ALSO  
MAKES  
YOUR  
BOOBS  
BIGGER.





ARGH!

WELL, THE  
DRUG WAS  
SUPPOSED  
TO MAKE  
YOUR HAIR  
GROW,  
AFTER ALL.

WHAT  
THE  
HELL!



YOURS IS  
GROWING  
SIDWAYS!



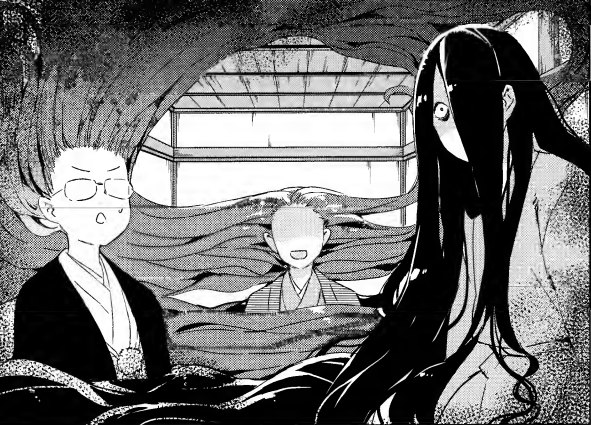
IT  
WON'T  
STOP  
GROWING  
!!!!

IT'S  
GETTING  
LONGER!



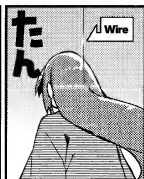
IT IS!  
YOUR  
HAIR IS  
GROWING  
STRAIGHT  
UP!

IS THAT  
GOING  
HAPPEN  
TO US  
TOO?











Yasu's  
comment

JOSHIRAKU HAS A LOT OF MYSTERIOUS BACKGROUND CHARACTERS THAT APPEAR ONE PANEL AND THEN DISAPPEAR THE NEXT. THE OLD WOMAN IN PARTICULAR I TRIED TO FIT INTO MOST CHAPTERS, NO MATTER HOW DIFFICULT.

I THINK HAVING THESE BACKGROUND CHARACTERS IS PART OF KUMETA-SENSEI'S STYLE, THERE'S ALWAYS ONE OR TWO IN MOST OF HIS WORKS.

THOUGH THEY DON'T HAVE A NAME, TRYING TO GET THE BACKGROUND CHARACTERS INTO AS MANY CHAPTERS AS POSSIBLE WAS A LOT OF FUN.



BACKGROUND  
CHARACTERS

# TRANSLATOR'S NOTES

## GENDER MENDER

THE TITLE 転性気 (TENSEIKI) IS A REFERENCE TO RAKUGO STORY 転失気 (TENSHIKI), WHOSE MEANING IS DESCRIBED BELOW.

A TEMPLE PRIEST BEGINS TO FEEL ILL, AND SO CALLS FOR A DOCTOR. THE DOCTOR ARRIVES, GIVES A MEDICAL EXAMINATION AND AFTERWARDS ASKS THE PRIEST WHETHER HE HAS "TENSHIKI". THE PRIEST HAS NO IDEA WHAT "TENSHIKI" IS, BUT NOT WANTING TO APPEAR FOOLISH IN FRONT OF THE DOCTOR, SAYS THAT HE DOES NOT. THE DOCTOR IS A LITTLE CONFUSED, AND LEAVES.

THE PRIEST GETS A MONK TO HEAD INTO THE VILLAGE TO FIND OUT WHAT TENSHIKI MEANS. THE MONK HEADS DIRECTLY TO THE DOCTOR AND INFORMS HIM THAT THE PRIEST ACTUALLY HAS NO IDEA WHAT TENSHIKI IS AND WAS LYING ABOUT NOT HAVING IT EARLIER. THE DOCTOR EXPLAINS THAT "TENSHIKI" IS AN OLD CHINESE WORD THAT MEANS "FARTS".

THE DOCTOR DECIDES TO PLAY A PRANK ON THE PRIEST, AND SO TELLS THE MONK TO TELL THE PRIEST THAT "TENSHIKI" IS A SPECIAL WORD FOR SAKE CUP. THE MONK RETURNS AND GIVES THE PRIEST THIS INFORMATION.

THE NEXT DAY THE DOCTOR SHOWS UP AGAIN, AND ASKS THE PRIEST WHETHER HE HAS TENSHIKI. THE PRIEST REPLIES, "WHY YES, OF COURSE I HAVE TENSHIKI! I KEEP THEM ALL LOCKED UP IN A LITTLE BOX, AND WHEN YOU OPEN THE LID, A WONDERFUL SMELL APPEARS! WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE?". THE DOCTOR AND MONK START LAUGHING AND EXPLAIN TO THE PRIEST THAT HE'S BEEN PRANKED, AND THAT HE SHOULDN'T BE AFRAID TO ASK WHAT THINGS MEAN IN THE FUTURE.

CHAPTER FIRST PUBLISHED 9TH AUGUST 2013.

## PAGE 3:

"OH, RIGHT! FOR ANY OF YOU THAT BOUGHT THIS MAGAZINE JUST BECAUSE OF THE "ATTACK ON TITAN" SPECIAL..."

THE 11TH VOLUME OF ATTACK ON TITAN WENT ON SALE ON THE SAME DAY AS THIS CHAPTER WAS FIRST PUBLISHED.

THE MAGAZINE THAT BOTH JOSHIRAKU AND AOT IS PRINTED IN HAD A SPECIAL ALTERNATE COVER AND SOME OTHER AOT STUFF INCLUDED, THUS BOOSTING THE READERSHIP BY A WIDE MARGIN.

## PAGE 14:

LADIES TRAIN CARRIAGES / LADIES DAY / LADIES DISCOUNTS / LADIESH / LADY BORDEN

JAPANESE TRAINS HAVE WOMEN-ONLY CARRIAGES TO STOP GROPPING AND OTHER ASSAULT.

LADIES DAY IS A PROMOTIONAL DAY IN WHICH WOMEN ARE ENTICED INTO LOCAL BUSINESSES ETC. WITH HEAVY DISCOUNTS.

THE WOMEN-ONLY DISCOUNTS THAT GAN MENTIONS IS ALSO LIKE THIS, BUT THEY RUN ALL YEAR ROUND.

LADIESH IS A DAILY PANEL SHOW AIMED TOWARDS WOMEN, SIMILAR TO "THE VIEW" IN THE US OR "LOOSE WOMEN" IN THE UK.

THE "4" IN THE TITLE STANDS FOR ITS FOUR MAIN TOPICS, "LIVE", "LIFESTYLE", "LANGUAGE" AND "LOVE".

LADY BORDEN IS A LUXURY BRAND OF ICE CREAM, SIMILAR TO HAAGEN DAAZ.

## PAGE 5:

"HE FINALLY NOTICED US! EBIZO-SENPAI NOTICED US!"

"I WONDER WHAT CHANGED FOR THAT TO HAPPEN..."

THERE HAVE BEEN PERSISTENT RUMOURS CONCERNING EBIZO'S SEXUALITY, INCLUDING REPORTS OF HIM VISITING GAY CLUBS, AND A MALE AUTHOR REPORTEDLY KISSED HIM. THOUGH, EBIZO IS MARRIED TO A WOMAN, AND ALSO HAS A REPUTATION FOR BEING A SERIAL WOMANIZER, SO IT'S PROBABLY SAFE TO SAY THAT EBIZO IS JUST REALLY HORNY IN GENERAL.

## PAGE 6:

"THIS ISN'T RANMA! WHAT IF I HAD TURNED INTO A PANDA!?"

IN "RANMA 1/2", BY TAKAHASHI RUMIKO, THE MAIN CHARACTER, RANMA SAOTOME, CAN TRANSFORM INTO A GIRL BY BEING SPLASHED WITH COLD WATER. ANOTHER CHARACTER, GENMA SAOTOME, TURNS INTO A PANDA WHEN SPLASHED WITH COLD WATER.



THINK OF AS MANY METHODS FOR TURNING INTO A GIRL THAT YOU CAN!"

- WISHING UPON A MAGICAL BOOK TO BECOME A MAN AND GET TURNED INTO A GIRL INSTEAD.

REFERENCE TO "CHEEKY ANGEL" BY NISHIMORI HIROYUKI.

- GETTING SO TURNED-ON FROM READING PORN IN THE BATHROOM THAT YOU TURN INTO A GIRL.

REFERENCE TO FUTABA-KUN CHANGE! BY ARO HIROSHI.

- GETTING HIT BY A BOLT OF LIGHTING AFTER SCHOOL AND CHANGING SEX.

APPARENTLY SOMEWHAT OF A TROPE IN JAPANESE TV.

- GETTING CHANGED INTO A GIRL BY CHARIOT REQUIEM.

"CHARIOT REQUIEM" IS A STAND FROM JOJO'S BIZARRE ADVENTURE, A MANGA BY ARAKI HIROHIKO.

ONE OF THE STAND'S ABILITIES, GRAND SCALE SOUL MANIPULATION, CAUSES EVERYONE IN THE AREA OF EFFECT TO LOSE CONSCIOUSNESS, AT WHICH POINT YOUR SOUL IS TRANSFERRED INTO THE CLOSEST LIVING THING.

PAGE 7:

"WAIT, I HAVE A FEW MORE." "AREN'T THOSE ALL JUST CROSS-DRESSING, MARI-SAN?"

- ENTERING AKB48 AS THE 49TH MEMBER.

REFERENCE TO AKB49: REN'AI KINSHI JOURI, BY MOTOAZABU FAKUTORI. IN THE STORY MINORI URAYAMA, A HIGH SCHOOL BOY TRIES TO HELP HIS CRUSH FULFIL HER DREAM OF BECOMING AN IDOL BY CROSS-DRESSING AND GOING TO THE AUDITION WITH HER AS MORAL SUPPORT, HOWEVER HE IS CHOSEN INSTEAD.

- BEING CURSED BY A DOLL.

REFERENCE TO HAYATE THE COMBAT BUTLER, WHICH INVOLVES A STORYLINE IN WHICH THE MAIN CHARACTER IS CURSED BY A DOLL AND IS FORCIBLY CROSS-DRESSED AS A RESULT.

- BEING A GUPPY-OWNING TREPANNER.

REFERENCE TO HOMUNCULUS, A MANGA BY YAMAMOTO HIDEO WHICH FEATURES A CROSS-DRESSING CHARACTER.

- GOING THROUGH A MESSY DIVORCE AND THEN BEING HIRED AS A MAID FOR THE HOUSE YOU GOT KICKED OUT OF.

MRS. DOUBTFIRE.

- FULFILLING YOUR GRANDMOTHER'S LAST WISH TO WIN THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE ALL-GIRLS SCHOOL.

REFERENCE TO MARIA+HOLIC, A MANGA BY ENDO MINARI, IN WHICH A CHARACTER MARIYA SHIDO CROSS-DRESSES AS A GIRL TO FULFIL HIS GRANDMOTHER'S WISH.

- PLOT TO KILL SAKAMOTO RYOMA.

REFERENCE TO MOVIE "RYOMA ANSATSI", WHICH FEATURES CROSS-DRESSING.

- SELL 283 MILLION ALBUMS.

REFERENCE TO MANGA "BREMEN" BY UMEZAWA HARUTO WHICH FEATURES A CROSS-DRESSING DRUMMER.

"AHH, I'VE HEARD THAT SOME HAIR-LOSS MEDICINE CAN TURN YOU INTO A GIRL!"

REFERENCE TO FINASTERIDE, AN ANTI-ANDROGEN DRUG USED TO TREAT MALE PATTERN BALONNESS, WHICH HAS ALSO BEEN USED IN HORMONE REPLACEMENT THERAPY FOR MALE-TO-FEMALE TRANSSEXUALS.

PAGE 10:

"THAT RENJISHI! IT'S... WONDERFUL!"

RENGISHI IS A FAMOUS KABUKI DANCE. IT TELLS THE STORY OF A MIGHTY LION WHO LIVES HIGH IN THE CHINESE MOUNTAINS, TRAINING HIS SON TO BE AS MIGHTY AS HE IS. THE LIONS ARE REPRESENTED BY ACTORS WEARING LONG MAGNIFICENT WIGS, AND TOWARDS THE END OF THE PLAY IN THE FINAL DANCE, THE ACTORS TWIRL THEIR HEADS AROUND FLINGING THE WIGS TO AND FRO.

KABUKI (歌舞伎) ITSELF MEANS SONG (歌), DANCE (舞), AND SKILL (伎) AND IS A TRADITIONAL TYPE OF JAPANESE DRAMA-DANCE THEATRE, IT'S PROBABLY MOST KNOWN IN THE WEST FOR ITS USE OF ELABORATE MAKE-UP AND COSTUME DESIGNS.

PAGE 12:

"WIRE WORK? WHAT IS THIS, THE CIRCUS?"

TETORA IS REFERENCING SUPER-KABUKI HERE.

SUPER-KABUKI IS A MODERN FORM OF KABUKI THAT FEATURES CIRCUS-LIKE ACROBATICS, WIRE WORK (WIRES ATTACHED TO ACTORS SO THEY APPEAR TO FLY AROUND STAGE) AND MODERN MUSIC AND THEMES.

THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL MANGA ADAPTED INTO SUPER-KABUKI SHOWS.





じょしらく

J O S H I R A K U





JUST MIGHT  
HAVE SPARED  
YOU FROM ALL  
THE STRANGE  
INCIDENTS  
THAT HAVE  
BEEN GOING  
ON HERE  
LATELY...



BUT  
YOU  
KNOW,  
THAT  
MAKE-  
UP...

YOU'RE  
STILL  
DOING  
KABUKI.

I  
KNOW  
IT.



I GOT THE  
FEELING THAT  
SOMEONE WAS  
TAILING ME.

JUST  
NOW,  
WHILE  
I WAS  
WALKING  
HERE...



AAH  
YEAH,  
WE  
TOTALLY  
DO!

SEE, YOU  
LOOK LIKE  
THOSE CCTV  
WARNING  
STICKERS  
YOU SEE  
EVERY-  
WHERE.





WAS  
SOMEONE  
CALLED  
LIZANNU!

THE  
CRIMINAL  
....



I  
WROTE  
MY NAME  
BECAUSE  
YOU  
ASKED  
WHO I  
WAS!

BUT IN  
YOUR DYING  
MESSAGE  
YOU WROTE...



THAT'S  
MY  
NAME!!

YOU'RE  
WRONG  
!!!!



AND THEN  
NOT DYING...

WRITING  
A DYING  
MESSAGE,



WHOEVER  
THEY WERE,  
GAN-CHAN  
TOOK CARE  
OF THEM.

DOES IT  
MATTER  
?

I WONDER  
WHO THAT  
WAS..



EVERYONE  
TAKE OFF  
YOUR  
KABUKI  
MAKE-UP.

WELL,  
ANYWAY,



I DON'T  
THINK  
THEY'LL  
BE GETTING  
UP  
AFTER  
THAT...

SMACK

SO  
ANNOY-  
ING!

OW!



JUST IGNORE  
ALL THE SPOTS  
WHERE YOU HIT  
HER AND LOOK  
HERE...

RIGHT,  
TAKE  
A LOOK  
AT THIS  
GIRL.

SO, BACK  
TO THESE  
"STRANGE  
INCIDENTS"  
...

THESE  
ATTACKS  
ARE  
GETTING  
OUT OF  
CONTROL,  
THERE'S  
BEEN SO  
MANY OF  
THEM!

ALL THE  
VICTIMS  
SO FAR  
HAVE HAD  
IDENTICAL  
MARKS  
ON THEIR  
HEADS.

YOU CAN SEE  
A MARK ON HER  
HEAD WHERE IT  
LOOKS LIKE  
SHE'S BEEN HIT  
BY SOME KIND  
OF BLUNT  
OBJECT.

A BLUNT,  
HEAVY  
OBJECT,  
ABOUT  
THIS THICK.

I THINK IT'S  
THE SAME  
WEAPON,  
EVERY TIME.

THE  
PRINTING  
INDUSTRY  
JUST DOESN'T  
HAVE THE  
TECHNOLOGY  
TO MAKE  
SOMETHING  
LIKE THAT.

YOU MORON,  
KIGU,  
THERE'S NO  
MAGAZINE  
THAT THICK!

A MANGA  
MAGAZINE,  
MAYBE?

HHMMM

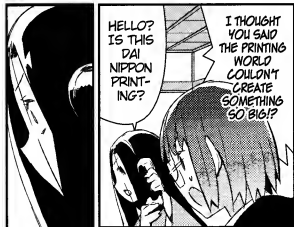
どすん  
SLAM



IT'S A  
PERFECT  
MATCH!

NO  
WAY!

NO-

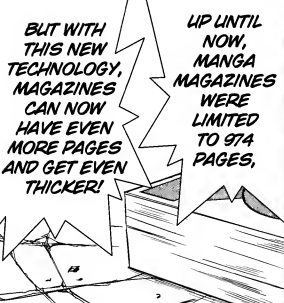


HELLO?  
IS THIS  
DAI  
NIPPON  
PRINT-  
ING?

I THOUGHT  
YOU SAID  
THE PRINTING  
WORLD  
COULDN'T  
CREATE  
SOMETHING  
SO BIG!?

IT'S  
HEAVY  
ENOUGH  
TO KILL  
SOME-  
ONE!

WHEN  
DID  
MAGA-  
ZINES  
GET  
THIS  
THICK!?



BUT WITH  
THIS NEW  
TECHNOLOGY,  
MAGAZINES  
CAN NOW  
HAVE EVEN  
MORE PAGES  
AND GET EVEN  
THICKER!

UP UNTIL  
NOW,  
MANGA  
MAGAZINES  
WERE  
LIMITED  
TO 974  
PAGES,



THEY  
DEVELOP-  
ED  
NEW  
TECHNO-  
LOGY!



BUT NOW  
THEY'VE GONE  
TOO FAR!

Safe

Bad

974 PAGES  
WAS NEAR  
THE LIMIT FOR  
WHAT A HUMAN  
HEAD COULD  
WITHSTAND...



HUMANITY  
HAS  
OPENED A  
PANDORA'S  
BOX!!

OH,  
THIS IS  
BAD!!



PEOPLE  
OUT THERE  
ARE USING  
THE  
MAGAZINE  
AS A  
WEAPON!



Monthly  
Shonen  
Magazine  
became a  
dangerous  
new weapon.

VROOOOOOOOMM

In the  
year 20XX,  
due to dangerous  
new technology  
created by  
Mad Engineers  
at Dai Nippon  
Printing,



KYAAAAA!!



THIS  
IS BAD!  
REAL  
BAD!



IN ORDER  
TO SAVE  
JAPAN...



THE  
ULTIMATE  
SACRIFICE  
...

WE  
HAVE TO  
MAKE

IT'S TOO  
LATE TO  
STOP NOW,  
AEROSMITH  
IS ALREADY  
PLAYING.

DO WE  
REALLY  
HAVE TO  
SACRIFICE  
OUR-  
SELVES?!

JUST  
HANG  
ON A  
MINUTE  
!!

N-NO!

WELL  
THAT'S  
THAT  
IDEA  
OUT THE  
WINDOW.

Uzannu

THEN  
WE'LL  
TAKE A  
VOTE.

WHO  
HERE  
IS OP-  
POSED?

I  
SUPPORT  
THE  
SACRIFICE  
IDEA.

I'VE BEEN  
SEARCHING  
FOR A  
GOOD TIME  
TO DIE FOR  
A WHILE  
NOW.

IS THAT  
REALLY A  
COMPROMISE,  
THOUGH?

CRYOGENIC  
FREEZING!

WELL,  
WE'LL JUST  
HAVE TO  
COMPROMISE  
INSTEAD!

Kukuru-  
chan  
thought,

As her  
mind  
grew faint.

クク  
ル  
ちゃん  
の  
心  
が  
弱  
る  
の  
を  
知  
る

I'LL GO  
FIRST.

"A stupid  
way  
to end"

"This really  
really is."



+

Haaa.....

?



I'LL MEET  
YOU IN THE  
AFTERLIFE,  
AT  
GOKOKU-JI  
SHRINE.

Gan-chan  
thought,



As her mind  
grew faint,

ME NEXT,  
I GUESS.

ALL  
RIGHT.



Is  
really  
fogging  
up my  
glasses"

"God  
damn it.  
This  
cryogenic  
tank."

ふしゅう  
う  
pushoo

THEY'LL  
LET US  
COME  
BACK,  
RIGHT?

SURELY  
WHEN THE  
MAGAZINE  
THINS  
OUT A  
LITTLE,

I'LL GO  
TOO, I  
GUESS.

"I wonder  
when that  
will be.."

"When  
the  
magazine  
thins  
out.."

Kigur-  
chan  
thought,

As her  
mind grew  
faint,

EVERYONE'S  
ALREADY  
GONE, HUH.

"Will the  
authors  
still even  
be alive  
anymore?"

"When  
that  
time  
comes.."

Maris-  
san  
thought,

As her  
mind  
grew  
faint,

ふしゅう  
う  
pushoo

I  
GUESS  
I HAVE  
TO DO  
THIS,  
TOO!

WELL,  
TO SAVE  
JAPAN  
FROM  
FALLING  
INTO  
LITTER  
CHAOS...

"Really  
make any  
difference  
at all?"

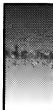
"Will getting  
rid of  
13 measly  
pages."



**This month's issue had a 41 page  
short story printed in the middle.**



However,  
this ever  
increasingly  
hefty manga  
magazine.

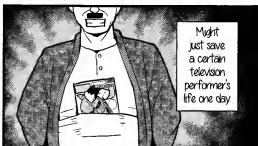


It  
wasn't  
even  
manga.



**The Last Page of the  
Legendary Magazine Messiahs.**

**『JOSHIRAKU』 End.**





AFTERWORD.

THANK YOU FOR READING JOSHIRAKU'S 6TH VOLUME!

IT'S THE LAST VOLUME OF THE SERIES, BUT I REALLY HOPE YOU ENJOYED IT.

THESE LAST 4 YEARS SEEM TO HAVE JUST FLOWN BY IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE TO ME, IT'S CRAZY.

AH, I DECIDED TO EXPERIMENT WITH THE CHARACTER DRAWINGS AT THE END OF EACH CHAPTER THIS TIME, I WANTED TO GIVE THEM A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT FEEL FROM THE REST, SO I USED THICKER, ROUGHER LINES. IT TOOK A WHILE, BUT I'M HAPPY WITH HOW THEY CAME OUT.

TO KUMETA-SENSEI.

TO OUR EDITORS, SUZUKI-SAMA AND NAKADA-SAMA.

TO OUR FORMER EDITORS, MIURA-SAMA AND SHIODA-SAMA.

TO THE COVER DESIGNER, HISAMOCCHI-SAMA.

YOUR ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN INVALUABLE.

THANK YOU.

TO MY ASSISTANTS, SAKURABA-KUN AND KIBIDANGO-SAN, THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK.

AND TO ALL THE READERS THAT STUCK WITH US ALL UNTIL THE VERY END, THANK YOU SO SO MUCH. I HOPE WE ALL MEET AGAIN SOME TIME!

-YASU



# TRANSLATOR'S NOTES

## THE SECRET OF THE END

TITLE, 終末の極意 (SHUUMATSU NO GOKUI, LIT. "THE INNERMOST SECRETS OF THE ENDING") IS A REFERENCE TO RAKUGO STORY 始末の極意 (SHIMATSU NO GOKUI - MASTER MISER/THE SECRETS OF MISERLINESS).

TO FULLY UNDERSTAND THIS STORY, FIRST IMAGINE THE "OK" HAND SIGN IN YOUR HEAD, WHERE THE FOREFINGER AND THE THUMB COME TOGETHER TO MAKE A CIRCLE, AND THE REMAINING FINGERS SPREAD OUT BEHIND IT.

WHILE THIS SIGN MEANS "OK" IN ENGLISH SPEAKING COUNTRIES (AND IS AN INSULT IN SOME OTHERS) IN JAPAN THAT SIGN MEANS "MONEY" OR "COINS". NOW THAT YOU HAVE THAT IN MIND...

THE STORY REVOLVES AROUND TWO CHARACTERS, ONE OF WHICH IS A FAMOUSLY MISERLY AND PENNY-PINCHING OLD MAN, AND HIS NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOUR, WHO ADMIRES HOW STINGY THE OLD MAN IS AND WISHES TO LEARN FROM HIM. THE NEIGHBOUR KNOCKS ON THE DOOR OF THE OLD MAN AND ASKS TO BORROW HIS HAMMER.

"FOR WOODEN PINS, OR FOR NAILS?" THE OLD MAN ASKS.

"FOR NAILS" THE NEIGHBOUR REPLIES.

"NO, NO, NO, I CAN'T LET YOU USE MY HAMMER! NAILS WILL DENT AND SCRATCH IT!" HE CRIES.

"FINE, THEN I'LL USE MY OWN HAMMER" SAYS THE NEIGHBOUR.

THE OLD MAN IS IMPRESSED WITH THE NEIGHBOUR'S BURGEONING STINGINESS AND DECIDES TO TEACH HIM THE TRUE WAYS OF PENNY-PINCHING.

AFTER A SERIES OF LESSONS, THE NEIGHBOUR LEARNS MUCH FROM THE OLD MAN. ONE NIGHT, THE OLD MAN INVITES THE NEIGHBOUR INTO HIS GARDEN TO TEACH HIM THE ULTIMATE LESSON OF STINGINESS. HE BRINGS OUT A LADDER AND MAKES THE NEIGHBOUR CLIMB TO THE VERY TOP OF THE TALLEST TREE IN HIS GARDEN. THE NEIGHBOUR DOES SO AND THE MISERLY OLD MAN TAKES AWAY THE LADDER, LEAVING THE NEIGHBOUR SWINGING FROM A BRANCH.

THE NEIGHBOUR PANICS BUT THE OLD MAN ASSURES HIM THAT THIS IS PART OF THE LESSON, AND ASKS HIM TO LET GO OF THE BRANCH WITH ONE HAND, THE NEIGHBOUR IS SCARED BUT DOES IT ANYWAY. THE OLD MAN ASKS THE NEIGHBOUR TO REMOVE HIS FINGERS ONE BY ONE UNTIL HE IS HOLDING ONTO THE BRANCH WITH ONLY HIS THUMB AND FOREFINGER, THE MONEY SIGN.

AFTER REPEATEDLY ASKING THE NEIGHBOUR TO LET GO, FINALLY THE NEIGHBOUR SCREAMS AT THE OLD MAN, "NO! I'LL NEVER LET GO! NEVER EVER EVER!"

THE OLD MAN REPLIES, "THAT, MY BOY, IS THE FINAL LESSON OF STINGINESS, NEVER LET GO OF YOUR MONEY!"

CHAPTER FIRST PUBLISHED 9TH SEPTEMBER 2013.

### PAGE 2:

"YOU LOOK LIKE THOSE CCTV WARNING STICKERS YOU SEE EVERYWHERE!"

THE KABUKI EYES STICKER AS SEEN IN PANELS 4 AND 5 CAN OFTEN BE SEEN IN TOKYO, AFFIXED TO PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND OTHER VEHICLES, AND SERVES AS A WARNING TO CRIMINALS THAT THE VEHICLE IS ALARMED OR HAS SECURITY CAMERAS INSIDE, OR THAT THE AREA IT RESIDES IN IS BEING WATCHED BY CCTV CAMERAS.

### PAGE 6:

#### PANEL 1:

THE MAGAZINE PICTURED HERE IS BESSATSU SHONEN MAGAZINE, A MONTHLY MANGA MAGAZINE AND A SPIN-OFF OF KODANSHA'S "WEEKLY SHONEN MAGAZINE".

IT WAS THE MAGAZINE THAT JOSHIRAKU WAS PRINTED IN, AS WELL AS OTHER SERIES LIKE 'ATTACK ON TITAN' AND 'FLYING WITCH'.

"HELLO? IS THIS DAI NIPPON PRINTING?"

DAI NIPPON PRINTING IS THE PRINTING COMPANY THAT PRINTS BESSATSU SHONEN MAGAZINE.

### PAGE 7:

"UP UNTIL NOW MANGA MAGAZINES WERE LIMITED TO 974 PAGES BUT..."

BESSATSU SHONEN MAGAZINE STARTED WITH 746 PAGES, BUT AS POPULARITY GREW, SO DID THE PAGE COUNT.



PAGE 9:

"WE HAVE TO MAKE.... THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE."

THE SUITS AND POSES OF THE GIRLS ARE A REFERENCE TO THE FILM, 'ARMAGEDDON' (1998).

"IT'S TOO LATE TO STOP NOW, AEROSMITH IS ALREADY PLAYING."

REFERENCE TO AEROSMITH SONG "I DON'T WANT TO MISS A THING", WHICH FEATURED ON THE SOUNDTRACK TO ARMAGEDDON.

PAGE 10:

"THIS REALLY REALLY IS A STUPID WAY TO END."

THE ORIGINAL JOKE HERE INVOLVES THE TERM 薬屋オチ (GAKUYA OCHI) WHICH MEANS AN "IN-JOKE" OR "INCOMPREHENSIBLE", IT TRANSLATES LITERALLY INTO "DRESSING ROOM PUNCHLINE".

"I'LL MEET YOU IN THE AFTERLIFE, AT GOKOKU-JI SHRINE."

THIS IS A REFERENCE TO THE IMPERIAL SHRINE OF YASUKUNI, A HUGE SHRINE DEDICATED TO THE LIVES OF THOSE WHO DIED IN SERVICE OF JAPAN AND ITS MILITARY. "I'LL SEE YOU AT YASUKUNI SHRINE" WAS A THING JAPANESE SOLDIERS WOULD SAY TO EACH OTHER BEFORE HEADING OUT ON MISSIONS IN WHICH THEY WERE ALMOST CERTAIN TO DIE. GOKOKU-JI SHRINE IS A SHRINE IN THE BUNKYO WARD OF JAPAN, WHICH IS ALSO THE LOCATION OF KODANSHA PUBLISHING'S MAIN OFFICES.

PAGE 12:

"THIS MONTH'S ISSUE HAD A 41-PAGE SHORT STORY PRINTED IN THE MIDDLE."

BESSATSU SHONEN MAGAZINE PRINTED THE FIRST PART OF 'OWARIMONOGATARI' BY NISIO ISIN IN THE ISSUE THIS CHAPTER WAS PUBLISHED IN. OWARIMONOGATARI FEATURES A LOT OF OUGI OSHINO, WHO IS THE CHARACTER IN THE MAGAZINE IN THE PANEL ABOVE.

"HOWEVER, THIS EVER INCREASINGLY HEFTY MANGA MAGAZINE.. MIGHT JUST SAVE A CERTAIN TELEVISION PERFORMER'S LIFE."

REFERENCE TO JAPANESE TELEVISION PERFORMER, KOJI KATO. WHILE PERFORMING ON A TELEVISION VARIETY SHOW, KOJI KATO PUSHED AKB48 IDOL MAYU WATANABE WITH HIS FOOT AND KNOCKED HER TO THE GROUND.

THE SCENE WAS PART OF A KIND OF SHOW THEY WERE DOING, WITH KATO DRESSED UP AND ACTING AS A STEREOTYPICAL ANGRY OLD MAN, INCLUDING WEARING A FALSE MOUSTACHE, AS CAN BE SEEN IN THESE PANELS, BOTH OF THEM LAUGHED THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE THING.

HOWEVER, A GIF WAS MADE OF THE INCIDENT BUT WAS SPED UP SIGNIFICANTLY SO IT LOOKED AS IF HE WAS KICKING HER A LOT HARDER THAN HE WAS. THIS CREATED A HUGE SHITSTORM IN THE IDOL FAN BASE COMMUNITY, WHO STARTED TO SEND KOJI KATO DEATH THREATS. IN RESPONSE TO THE DEATH THREATS, FOR THE NEXT EPISODE OF THE VARIETY SHOW, KOJI KATO JOKINGLY STRAPPED A COPY OF BESSATSU SHONEN MAGAZINE ONTO HIS STOMACH, AS ARMOUR.

"THE LAST PAGE OF THE LEGENDARY MAGAZINE END MESSIAHS."

THIS IS A REFERENCE TO FIST OF THE NORTH STAR'S SUBTITLE: LEGEND OF THE CENTURY'S END MESSIAH.

THE ORIGINAL JAPANESE TEXT HERE IS 巻末救製紙伝説 (KANMATSU KYUU SEISHI DENSETSU) AS OPPOSED TO FIST OF THE NORTH STAR'S 世紀末救世主伝説 (SEIKIMATSU KYUSEISHU DENSETSU). THE WORD FOR MESSIAH IN JOSHIRAKU'S VERSION IS MADE UP OF 救製紙, 救 MEANING "TO SAVE" AND 製紙 MEANING BOOK AND PAPER MANUFACTURING.



MANY THANKS TO:

THE KUMETAN WIKI: ([HTTP://WIKI.KUMETAN.NET/](http://wiki.kumetan.net/))

NOT RED REVIEWS: ([HTTP://NOTREDREVIE.W5/P5=JOSHIRAKU](http://notredreview.w5/p5=joshiraku))

THE KIND ANON WHO FOUND THE HIGHER QUALITY SCANS.

AND TO VARIOUS JAPANESE BLOGS/TWITTER ACCOUNTS/REVIEW WEBSITES/RAKUGO FANSITES/Z4H AND FUTABA THREADS FOR ANY OTHER INFORMATION I USED.

IF YOU LIKE THIS SERIES, PLEASE CONSIDER PURCHASING THE MANGA TO SUPPORT THE ORIGINAL CREATORS, KOWJI KUMETA AND YASU.

AND CHECK OUT THE ANIME IF YOU HAVEN'T, IT'S A REALLY GREAT ADAPTATION.

TRANSLATED AND TYPESET BY: ANONYMOUS.

お後がよろしいようで。